DARK HORSE COMICS®

Manga

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA'S

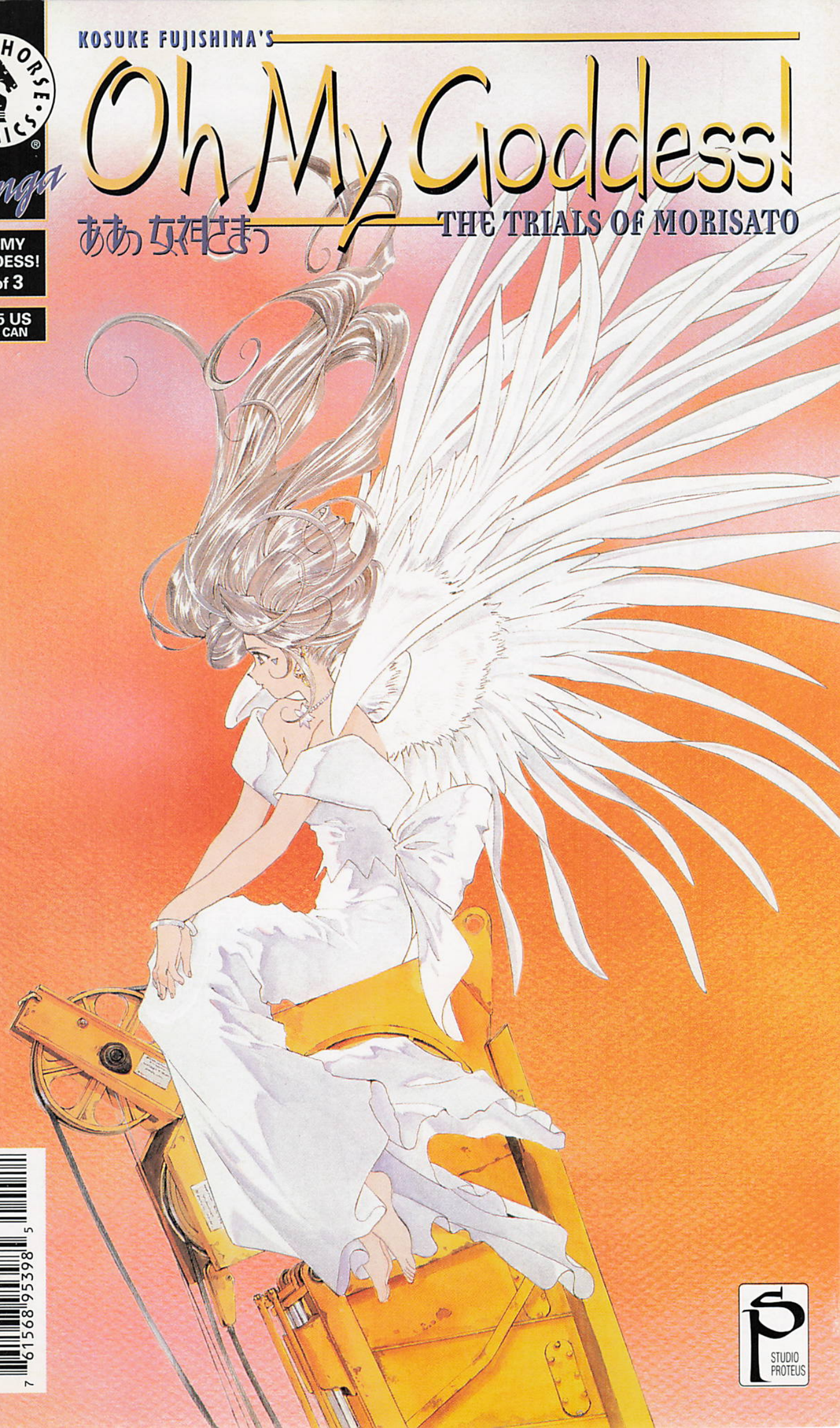
Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さまっ

THE TRIALS OF MORISATO

OH MY GODDESS!
3 of 3

$2.95 US
$4.15 CAN



STUDIO PROTEUS

DIRECT SALES
7 61568 95398 5
00411

Oh My Goddess!

PART IV

THE TRIALS OF MORISATO

PART THREE

STORY AND ART BY
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

TRANSLATED BY
DANA LEWIS and
TOREN SMITH

LETTERING and TOUCH-UP BY
SUSIE LEE and PC ORZ

COVER BY
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

EDITED BY
DAVE CHIPPS

DESIGN BY
MICKIE VILLA
SCOTT TICE

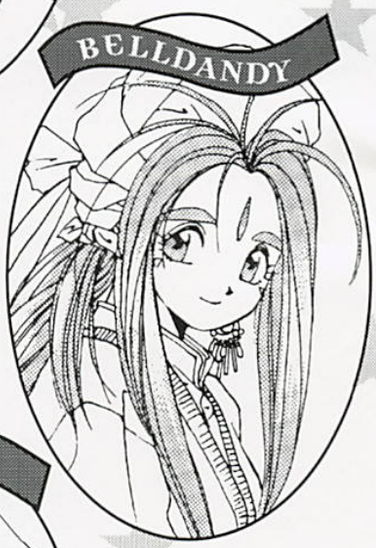
PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

ENGLISH VERSION PRODUCED BY STUDIO PROTEUS FOR DARK HORSE COMICS, INC.

Oh My Goddess! Part IV #4, March 1997. Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. 10956 SE Main St., Milwaukie, OR 97222.

Oh My Goddess! © 1997 by Kosuke Fujishima. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 1991 By Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd. English translation and lettering © 1997 Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All other material © 1997 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be produced by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. The stories, characters, and incidents in this publication are entirely fictional. Dark Horse Comics ® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN CANADA.

Nekomi Tech student who dialed a wrong number and unwittingly summoned the goddess Belldandy.



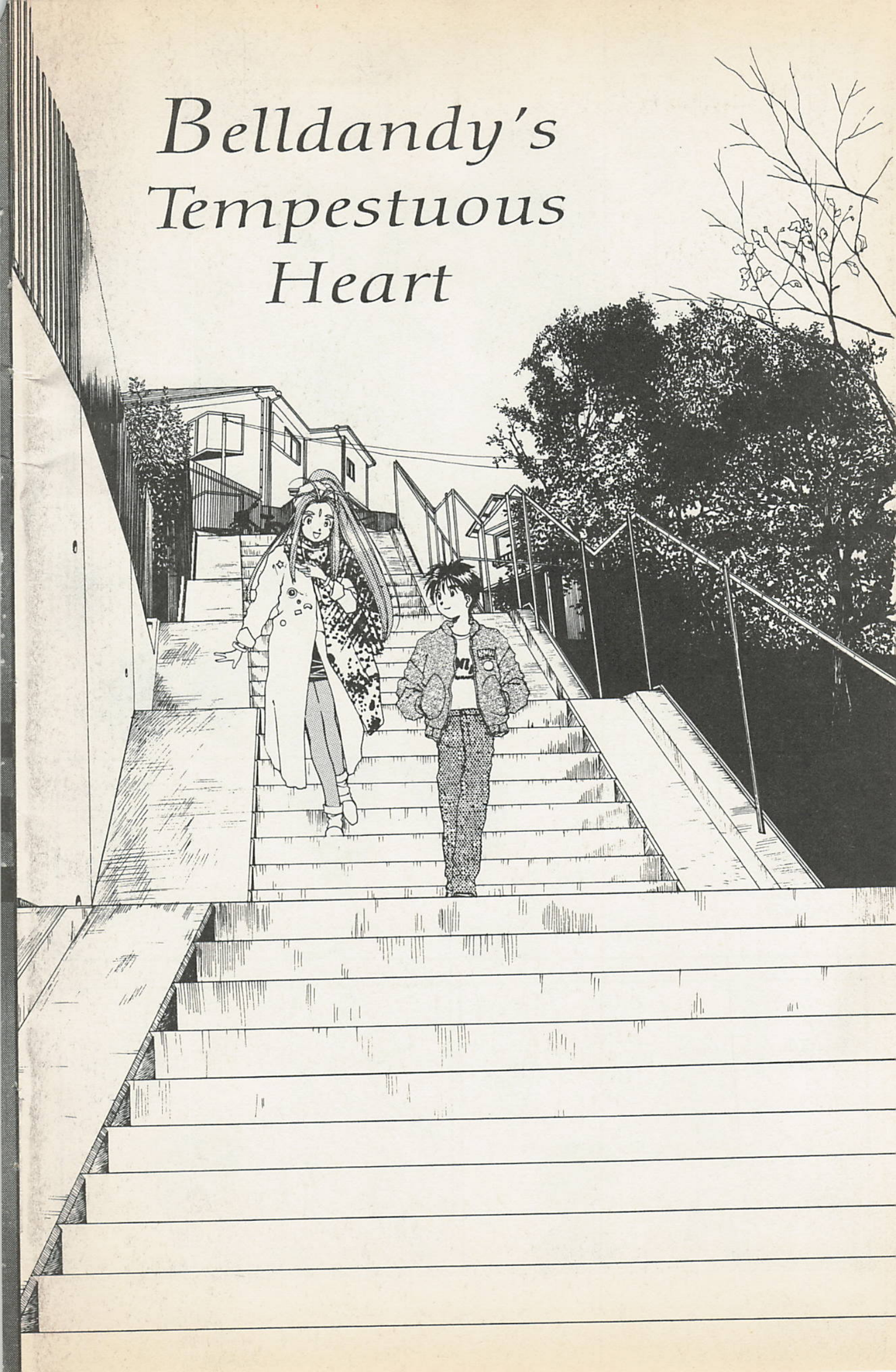
Goddess First Class (Unlimited). Very beautiful, very kind.

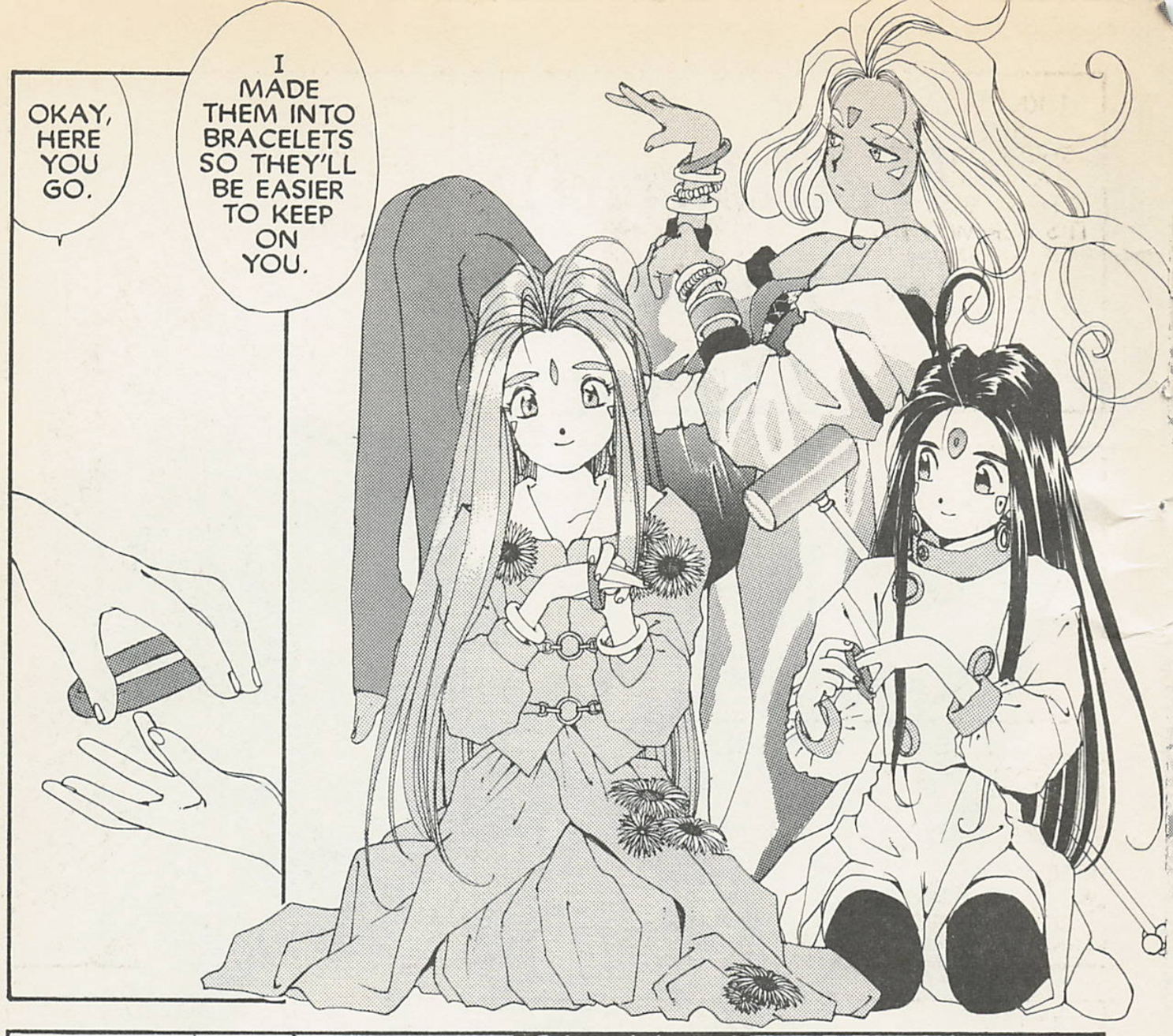
Goddess Second Class (Limited). Belldandy's big sister. Very sexy, very naughty.

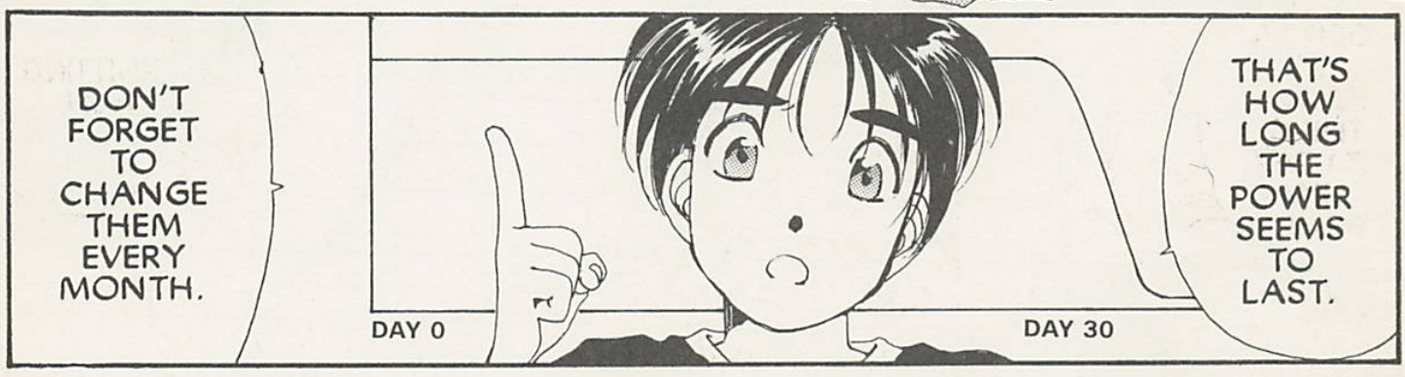
Goddess Second Class (Limited). Belldandy's little sister. Very smart, slightly bratty.

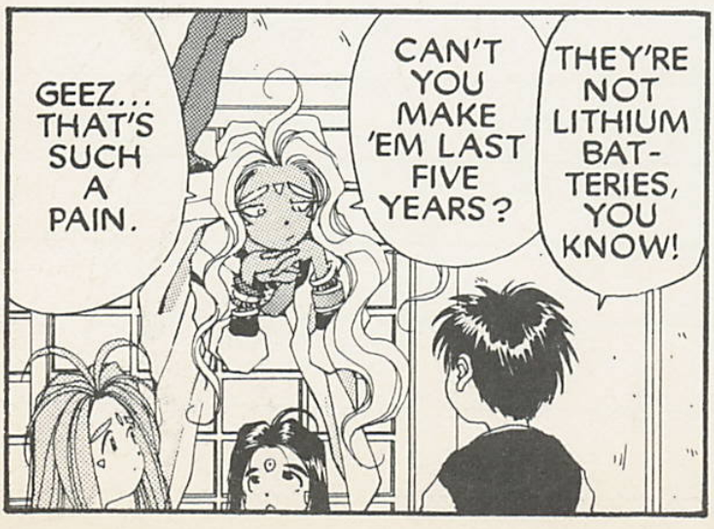
Almighty.

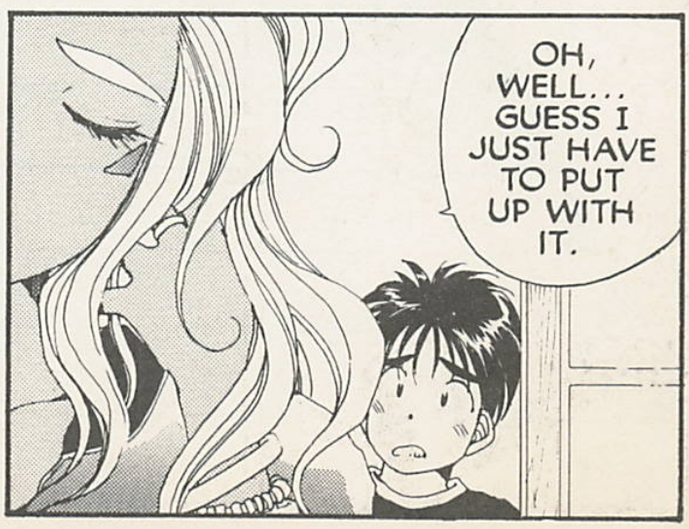
Belldandy's Tempestuous Heart

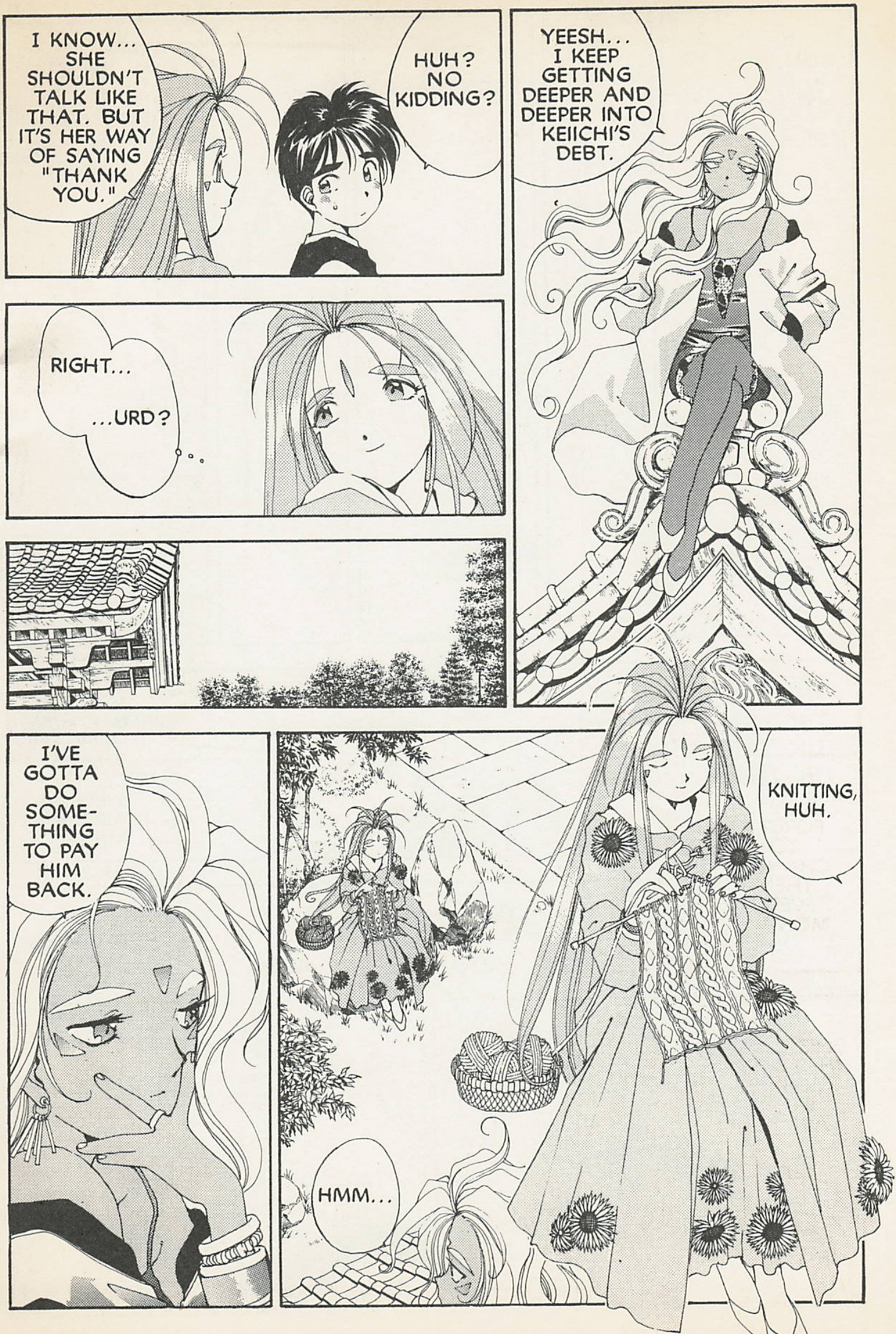


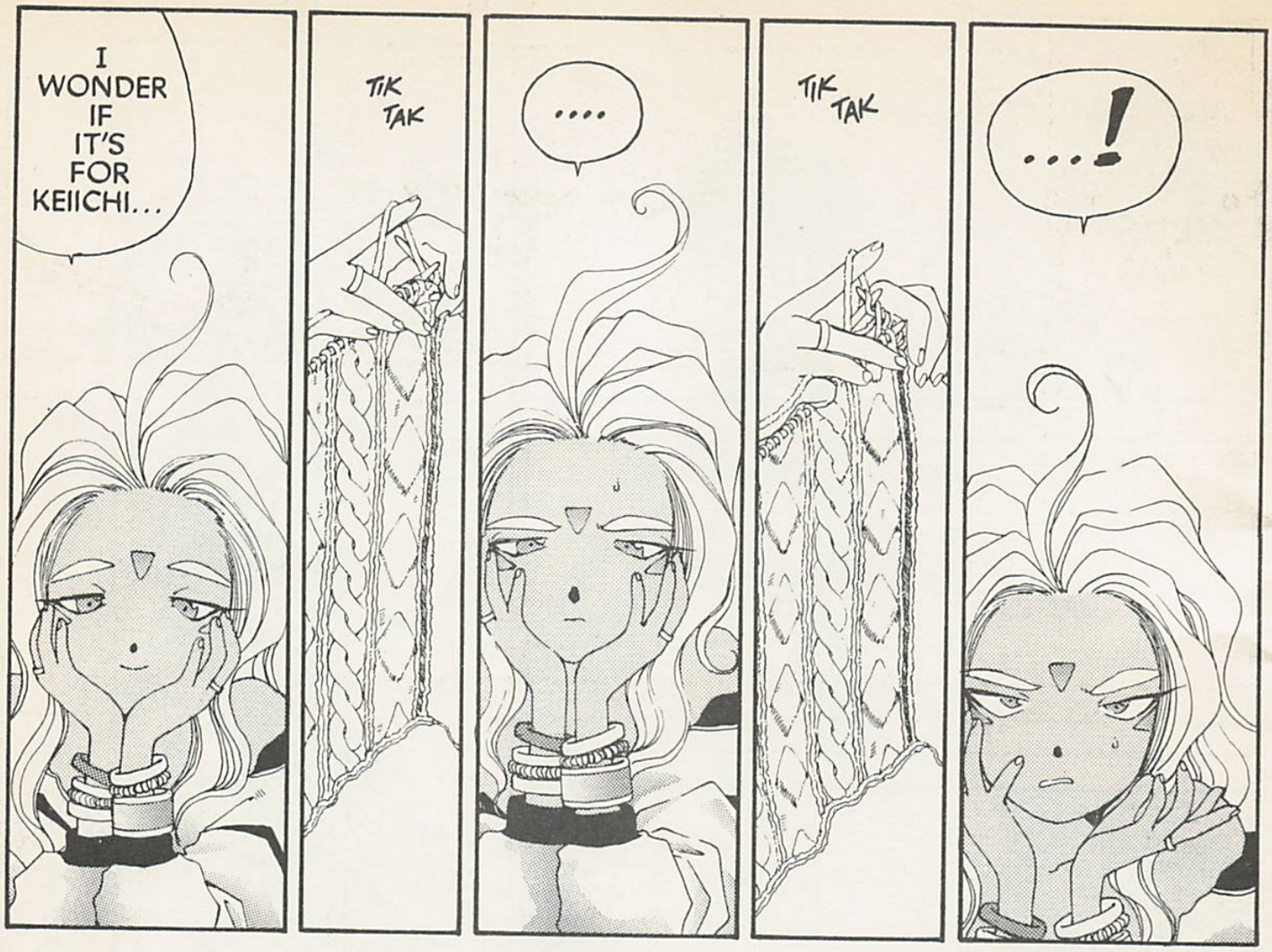

OKAY, HERE YOU GO.
I MADE THEM INTO BRACELETS SO THEY'LL BE EASIER TO KEEP ON YOU.

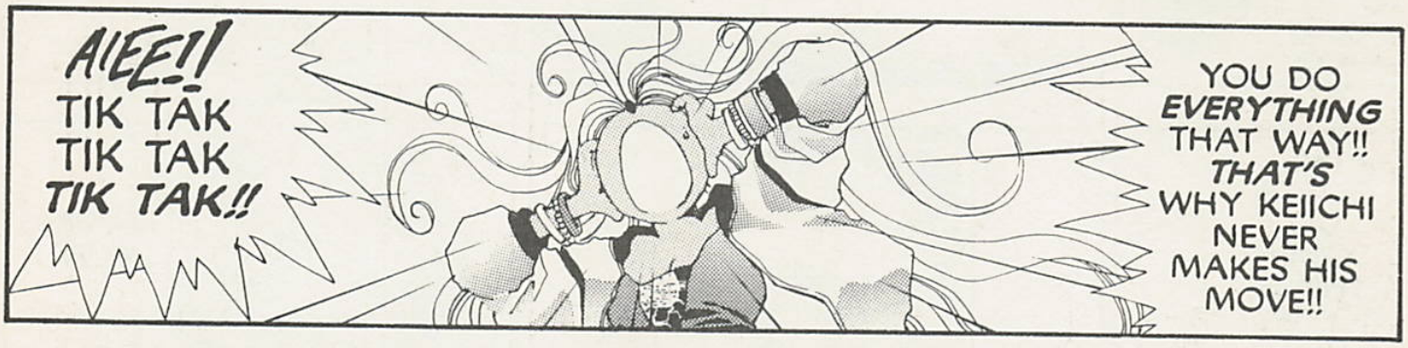

DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE THEM EVERY MONTH.
DAY 0
DAY 30
THAT'S HOW LONG THE POWER SEEMS TO LAST.

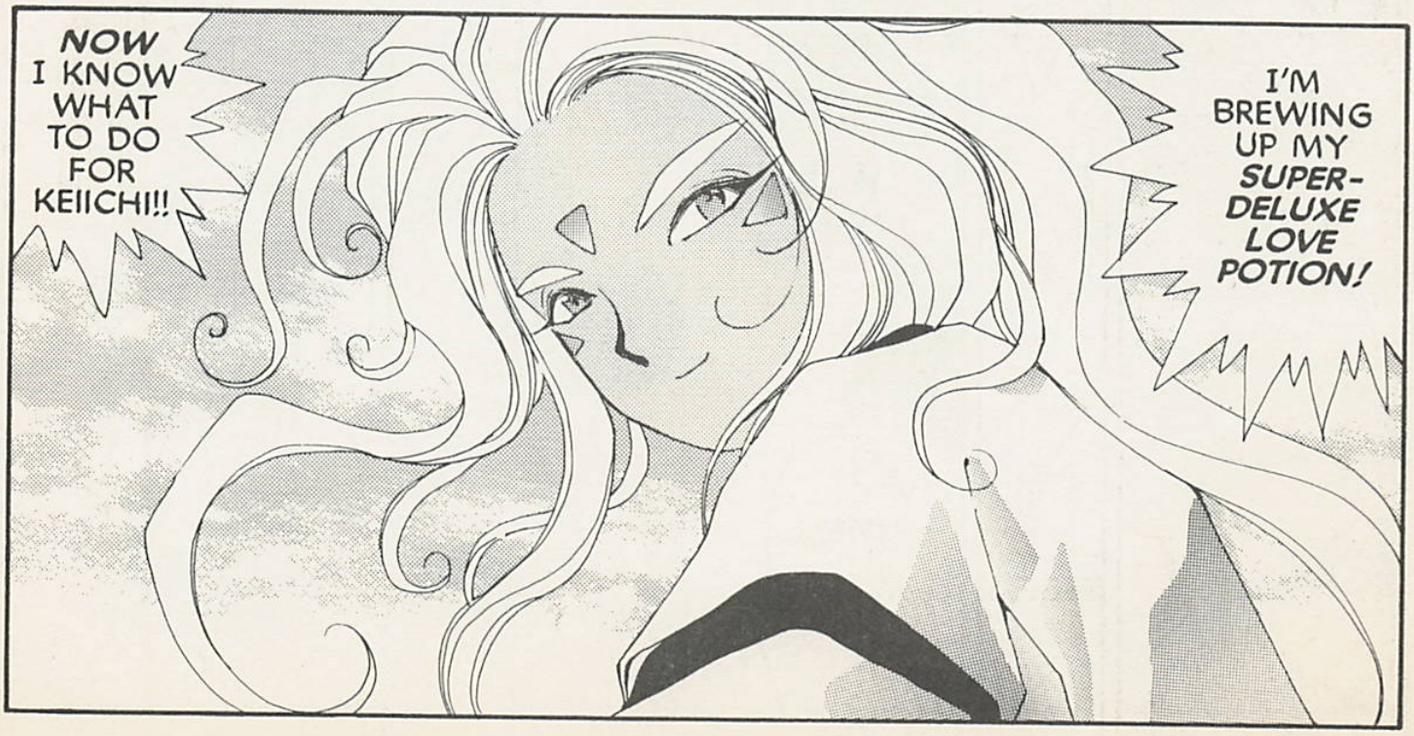

GEEZ... THAT'S SUCH A PAIN.
CAN'T YOU MAKE 'EM LAST FIVE YEARS?
THEY'RE NOT LITHIUM BAT-TERIES, YOU KNOW!

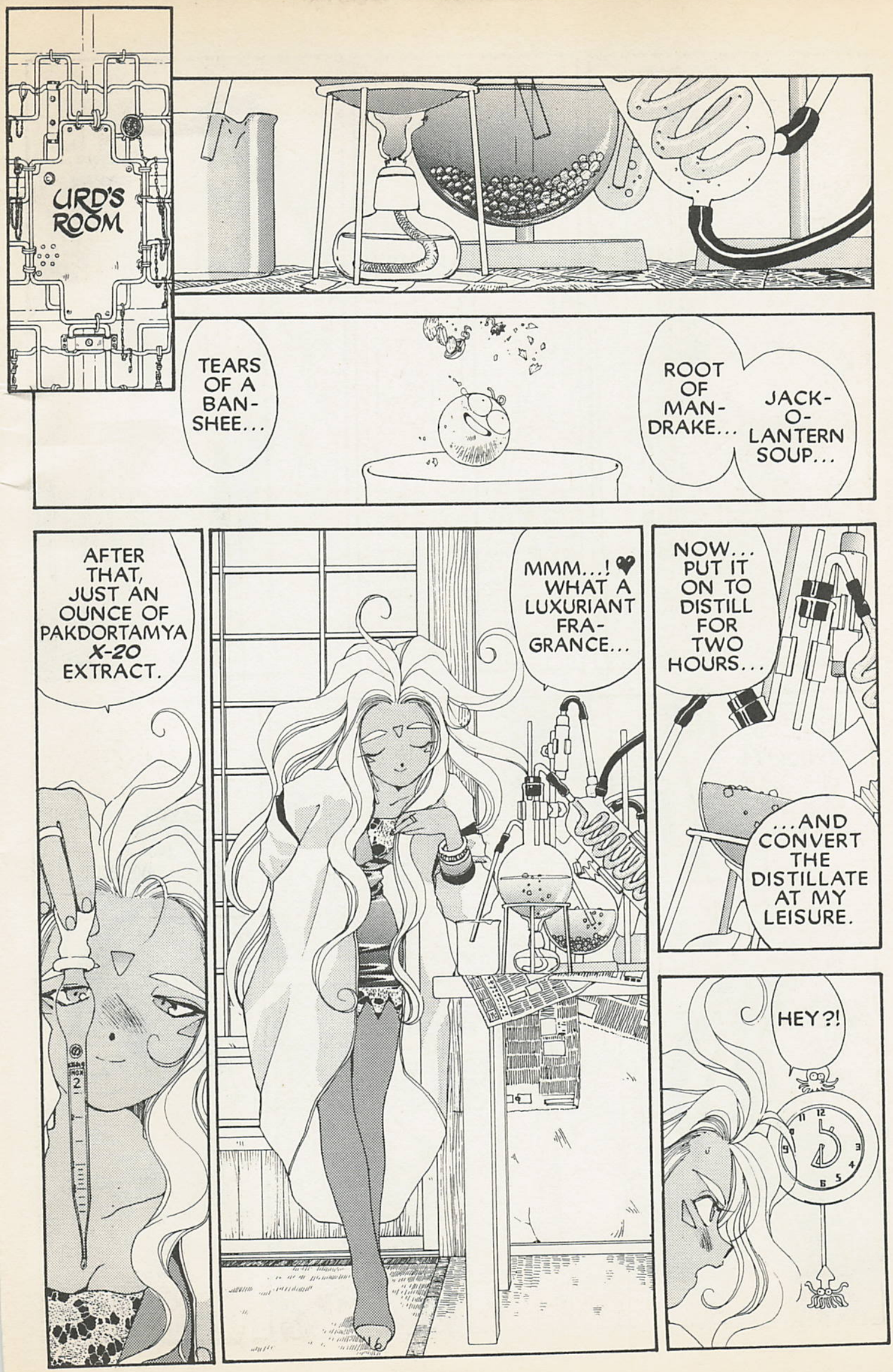

OH, WELL... GUESS I JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT.

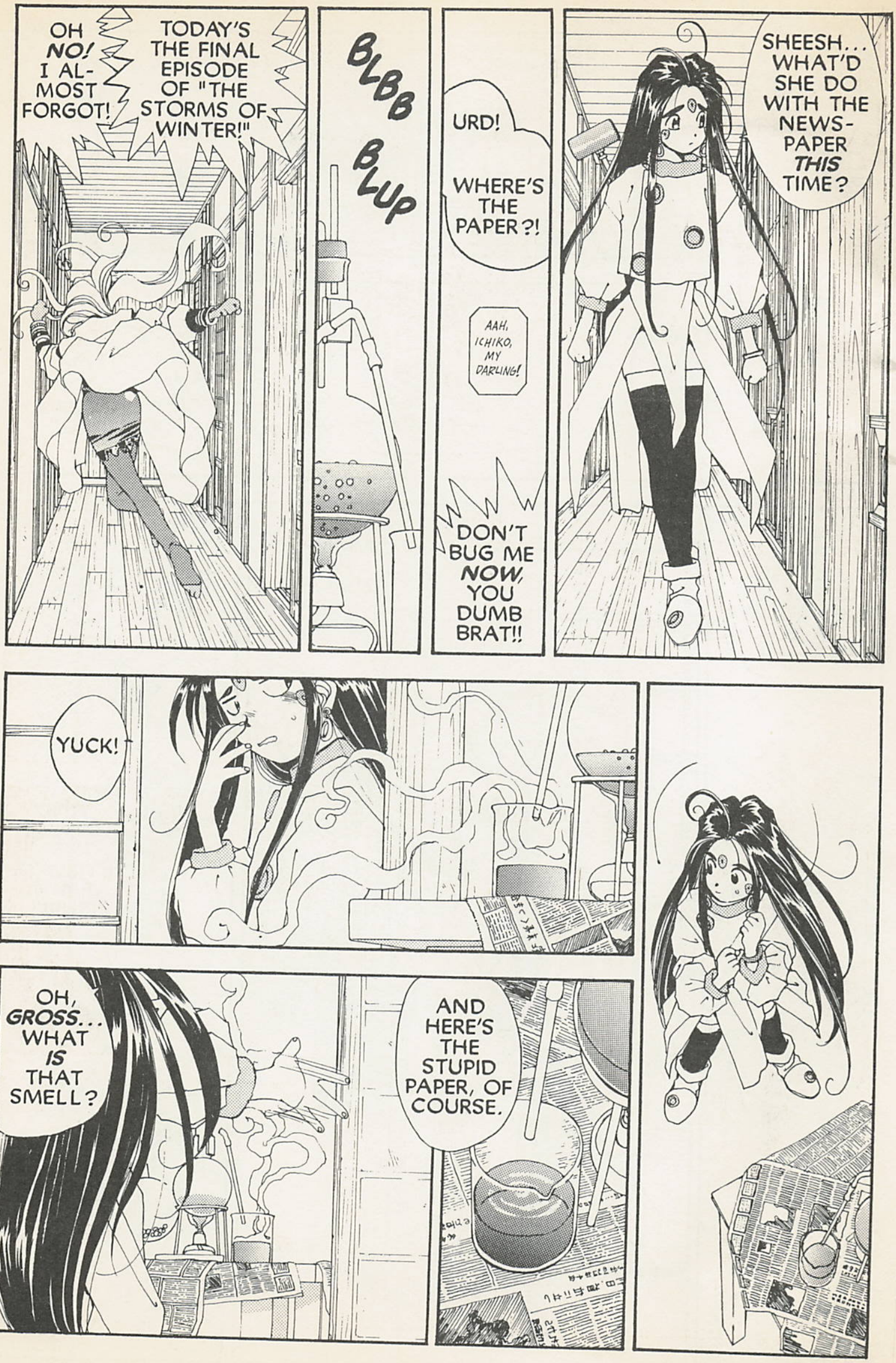

I KNOW... SHE SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT. BUT IT'S HER WAY OF SAYING "THANK YOU."
HUH? NO KIDDING?
YEESH... I KEEP GETTING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO KEIICHI'S DEBT.
RIGHT...
...URD?
I'VE GOTTA DO SOME-THING TO PAY HIM BACK.
HMM...
KNITTING, HUH.

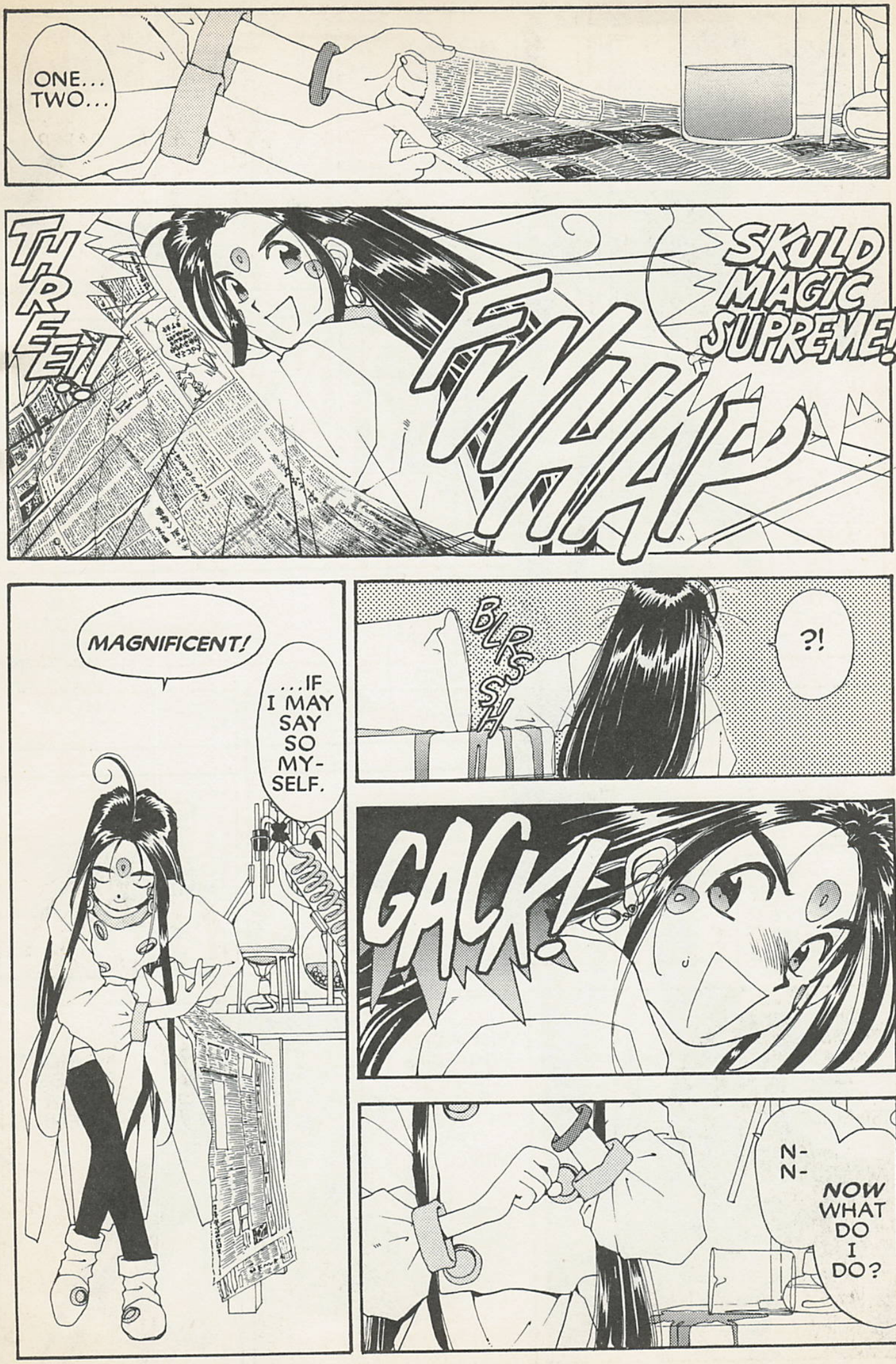

I WONDER IF IT'S FOR KEIICHI...
TIK TAK
....
TIK TAK
...!

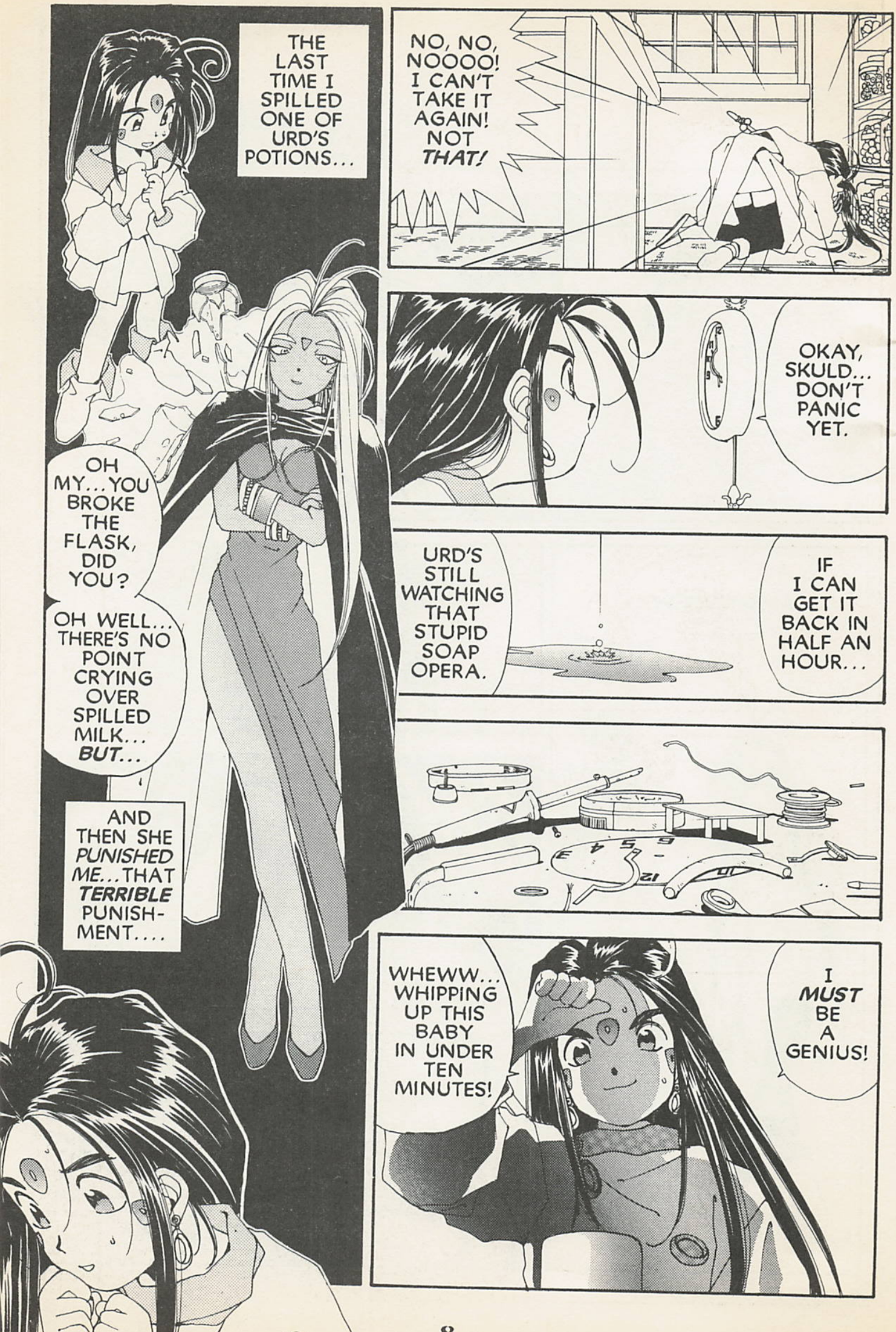

AIEE!! TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK!!
YOU DO EVERYTHING THAT WAY!! THAT'S WHY KEIICHI NEVER MAKES HIS MOVE!!

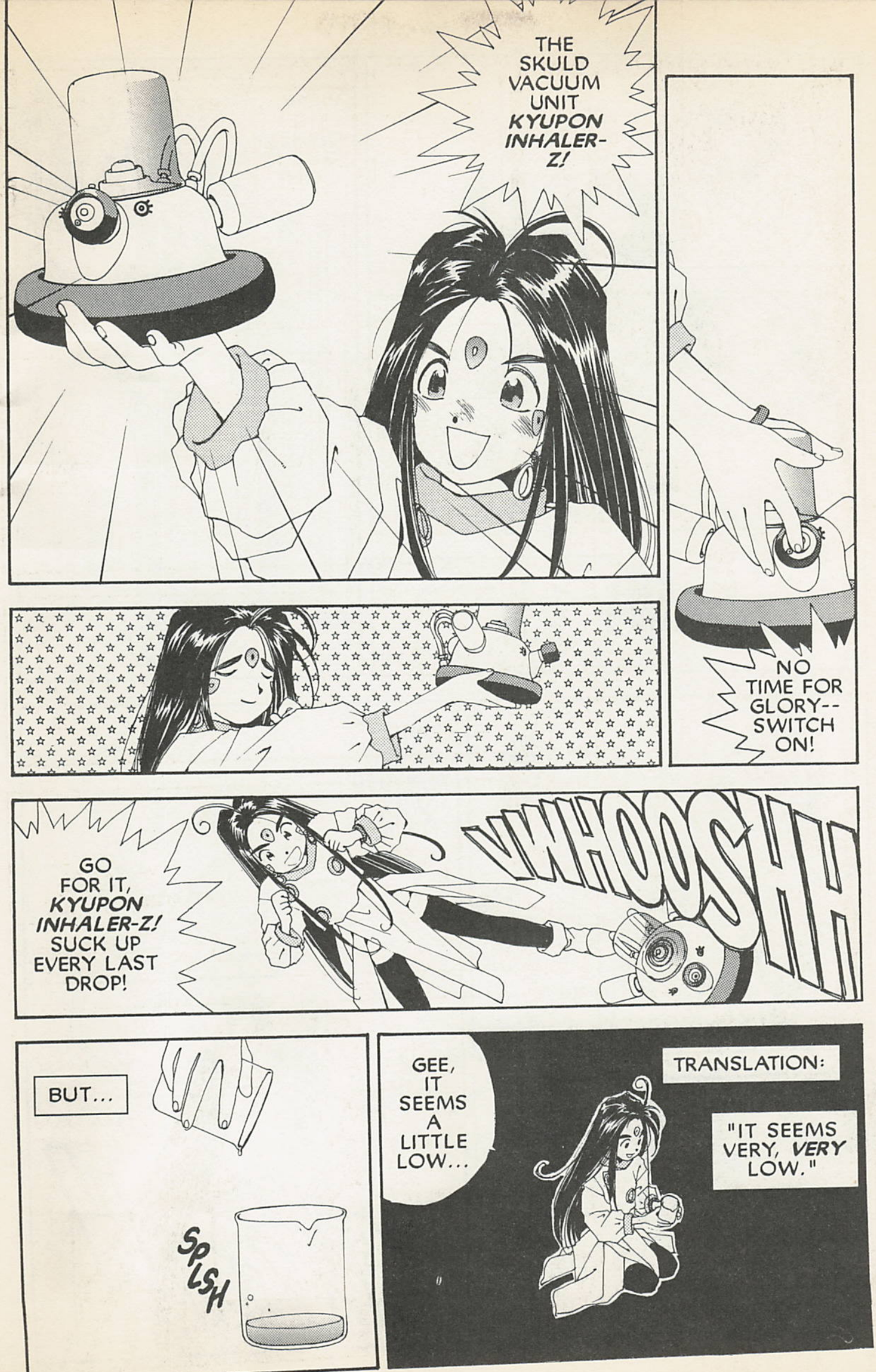

NOW I KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR KEIICHI!!
I'M BREWING UP MY SUPER-DELUXE LOVE POTION!

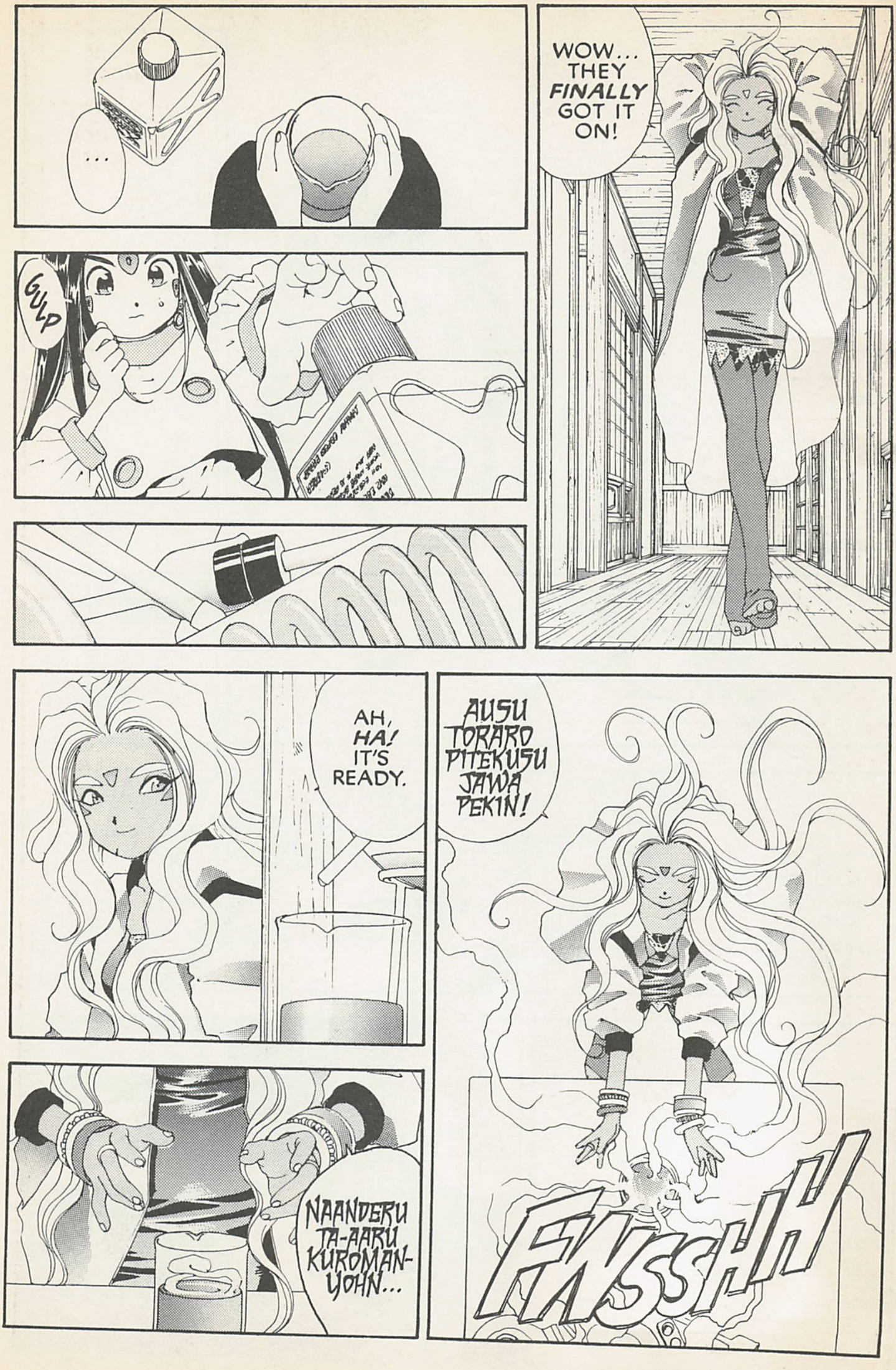

URD'S ROOM
TEARS OF A BAN-SHEE...
ROOT OF MAN-DRAKE...
JACK-O-LANTERN SOUP...
AFTER THAT, JUST AN OUNCE OF PAKDORTAMYA X-20 EXTRACT.
MMM...! ♥ WHAT A LUXURIANT FRA-GRANCE...
NOW... PUT IT ON TO DISTILL FOR TWO HOURS...
...AND CONVERT THE DISTILLATE AT MY LEISURE.
HEY?!

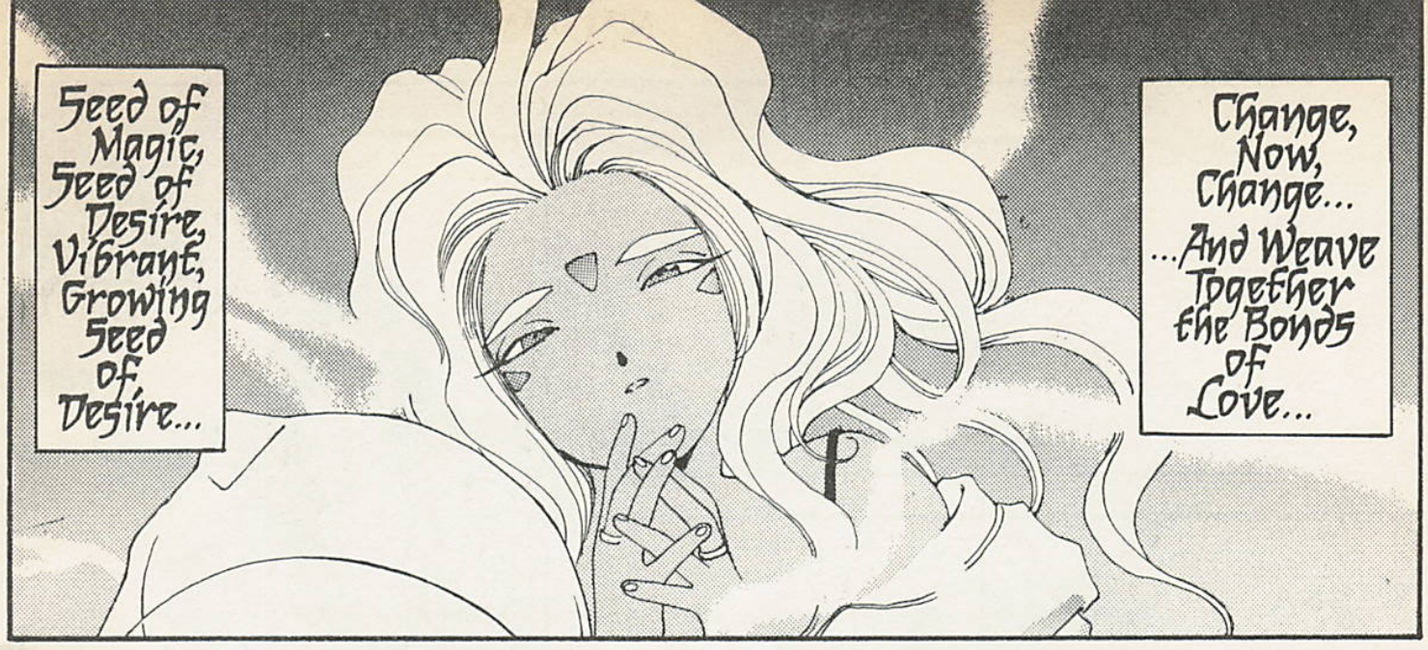

SHEESH... WHAT'D SHE DO WITH THE NEWS-PAPER *THIS* TIME?
URD! WHERE'S THE PAPER?!
AAH, ICHIKO, MY DARLING!
DON'T BUG ME *NOW*, YOU DUMB BRAT!!
BLBB BLUP
OH *NO!* I AL-MOST FORGOT!
TODAY'S THE FINAL EPISODE OF "THE STORMS OF WINTER!"
YUCK!
OH, *GROSS*... WHAT *IS* THAT SMELL?
AND HERE'S THE STUPID PAPER, OF COURSE.

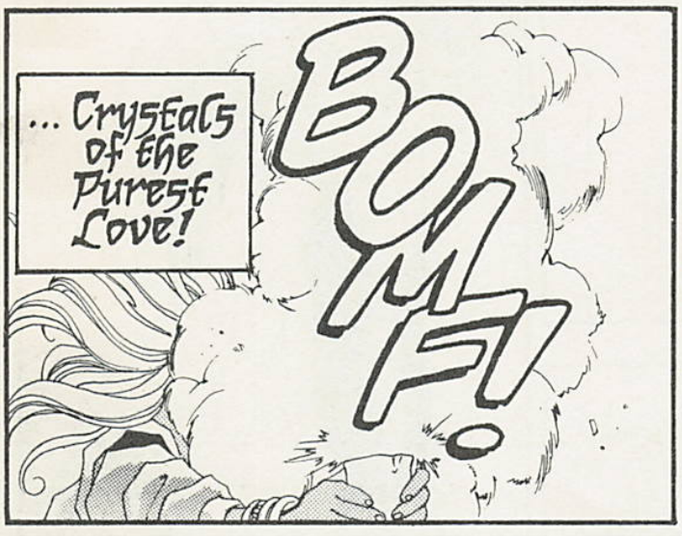

ONE...
TWO...
THREE!
SKULD MAGIC SUPREME!
FWAP
?!
BLRSSH
GACK!
MAGNIFICENT!
...IF I MAY SAY SO MY-SELF.
N-
N-
NOW WHAT DO I DO?

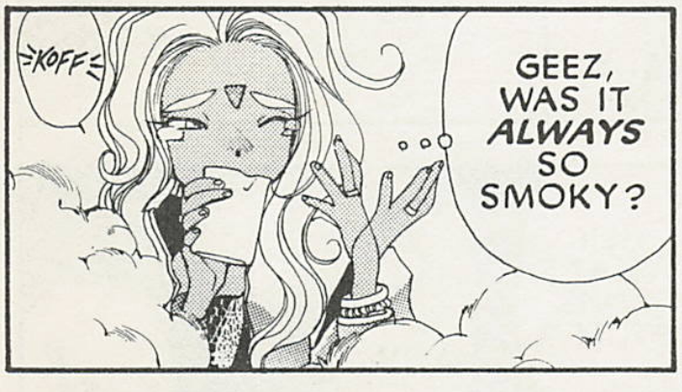

THE LAST TIME I SPILLED ONE OF URD'S POTIONS...
OH MY... YOU BROKE THE FLASK, DID YOU?
OH WELL... THERE'S NO POINT CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK... BUT...
AND THEN SHE PUNISHED ME... THAT TERRIBLE PUNISH-MENT....
NO, NO, NOOOO! I CAN'T TAKE IT AGAIN! NOT THAT!
OKAY, SKULD... DON'T PANIC YET.
URD'S STILL WATCHING THAT STUPID SOAP OPERA.
IF I CAN GET IT BACK IN HALF AN HOUR...
WHEWW... WHIPPING UP THIS BABY IN UNDER TEN MINUTES!
I MUST BE A GENIUS!


THE SKULD VACUUM UNIT *KYUPON INHALER-Z!*
NO TIME FOR GLORY-- SWITCH ON!
GO FOR IT, *KYUPON INHALER-Z!* SUCK UP EVERY LAST DROP!
VWHOOSHH
BUT...
SPLSH
GEE, IT SEEMS A LITTLE LOW...
TRANSLATION:
"IT SEEMS VERY, *VERY* LOW."

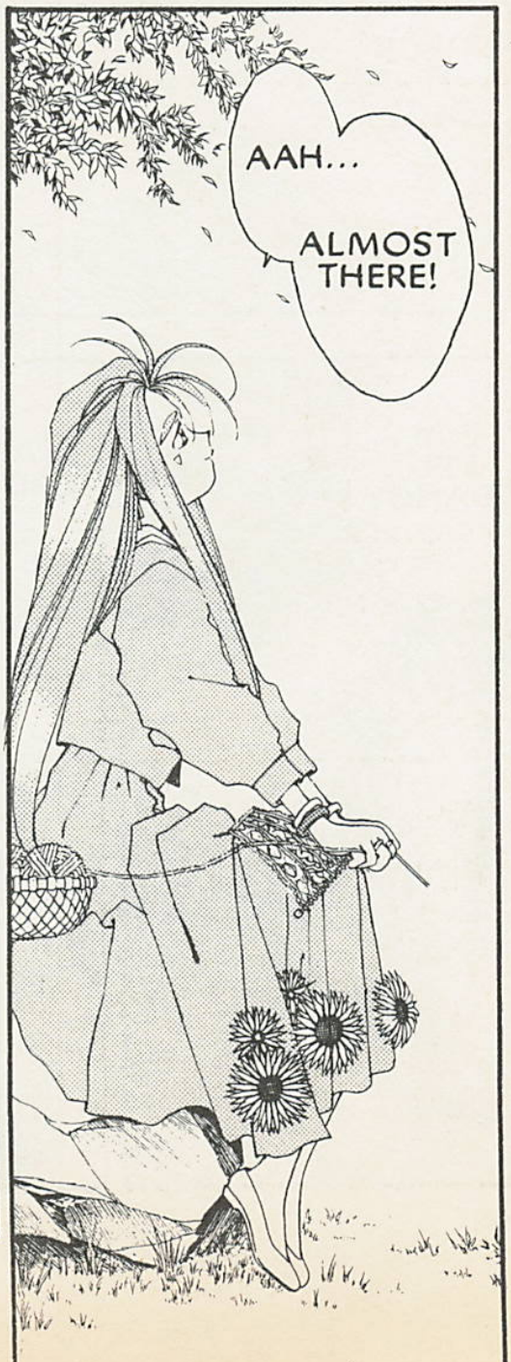

...
WOW... THEY FINALLY GOT IT ON!
GULP
AH, HA! IT'S READY.
AUSU TORARO PITEKUSU JAWA PEKIN!
FWSSHH
NAANDERU TA-AARU KUROMAN-YOHN...

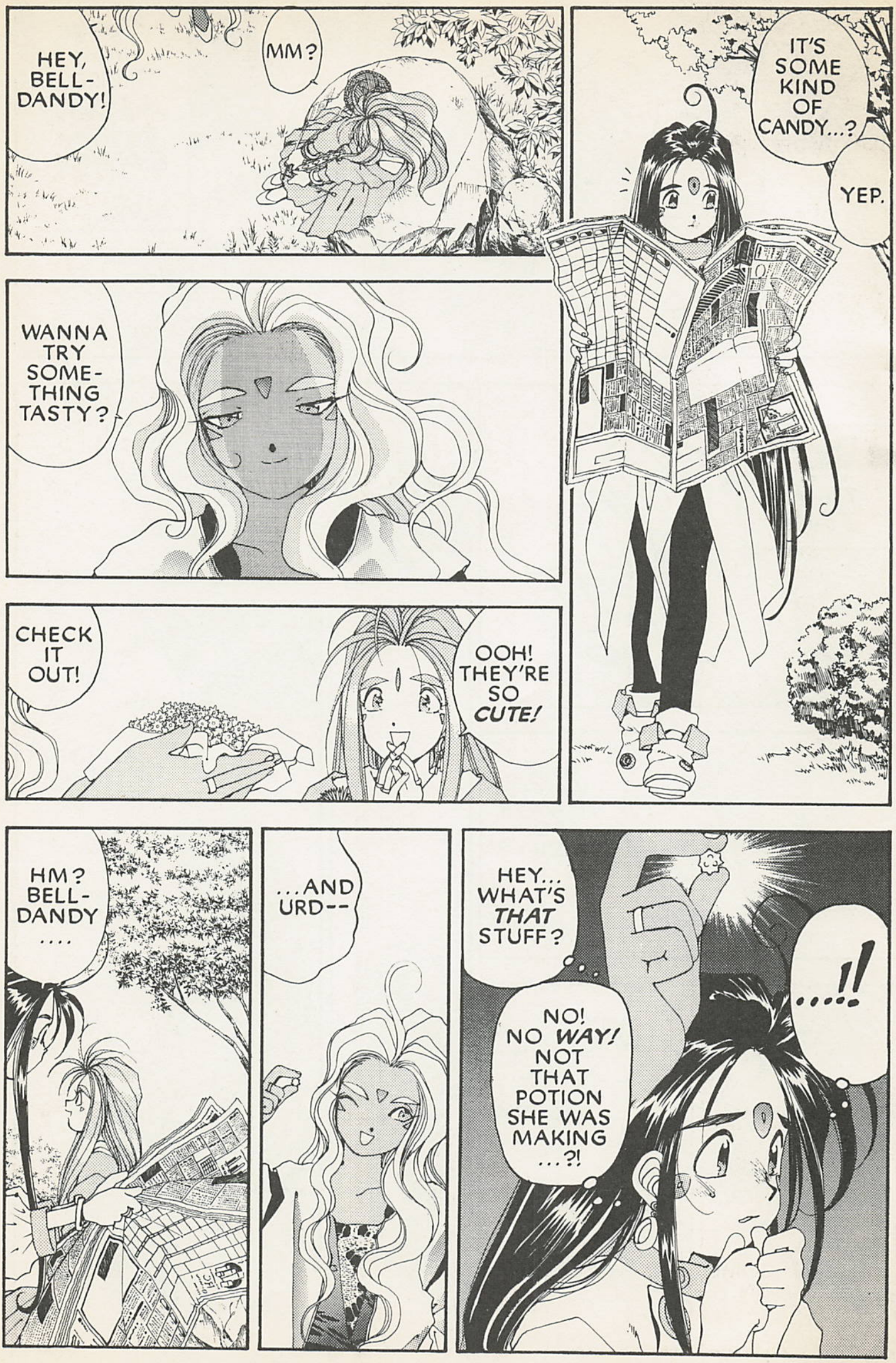

Seed of Magic, Seed of Desire, Vibrant, Growing Seed of Desire...
Change, Now, Change... ...And Weave Together the Bonds of Love...

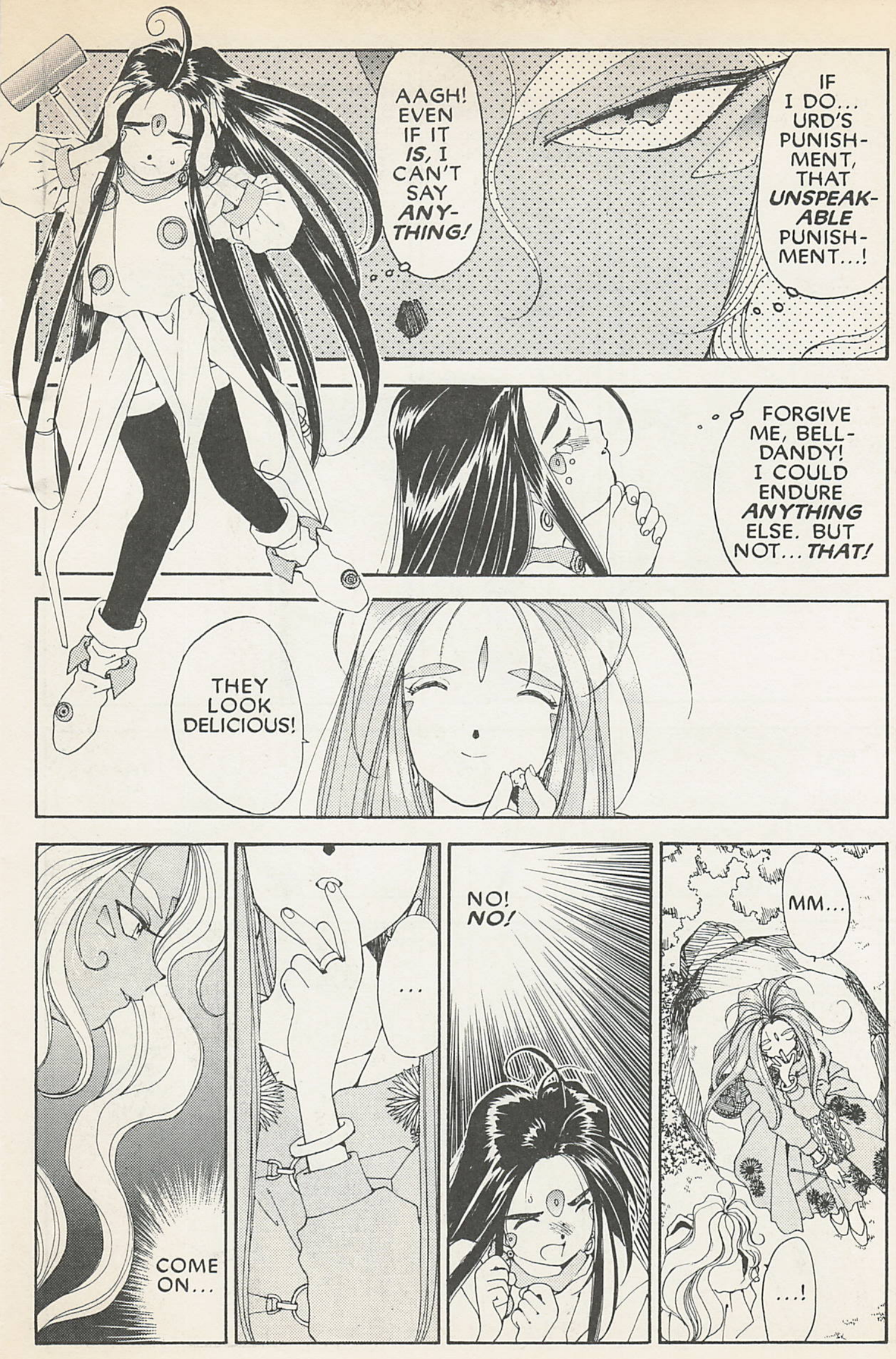

... Crystals of the Purest Love!
BOMF!

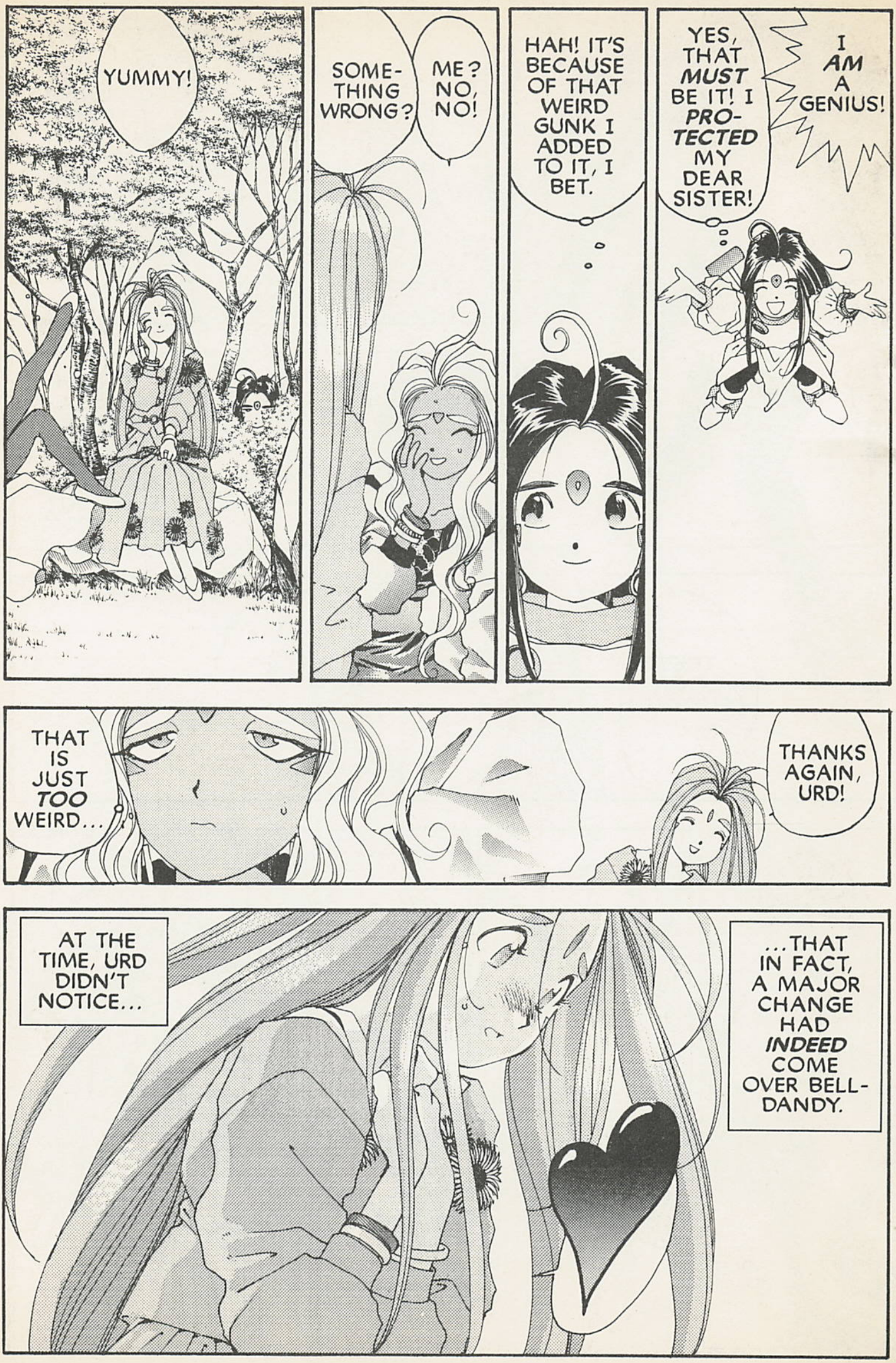

=KOFF=
GEEZ, WAS IT ALWAYS SO SMOKY?

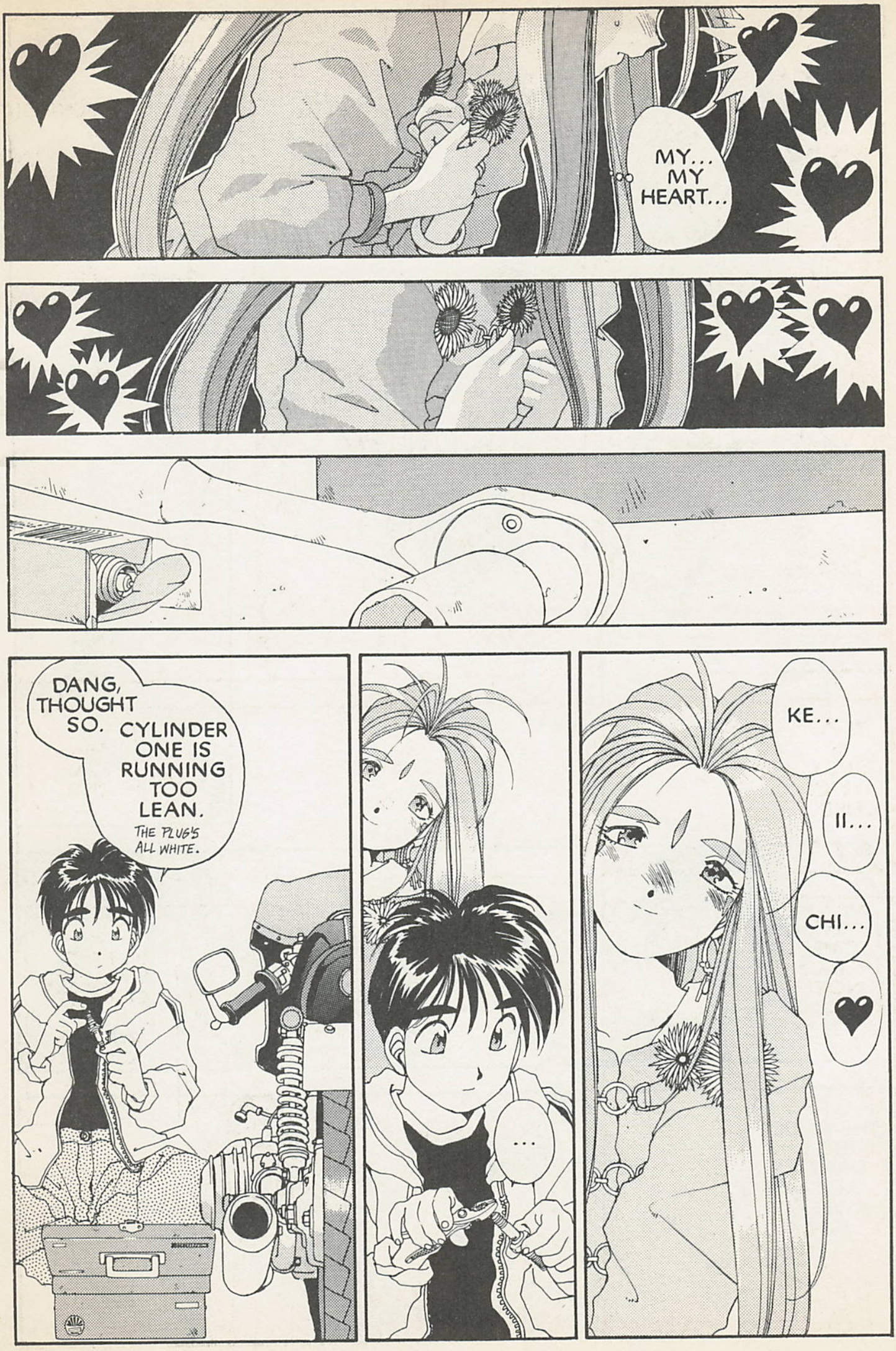
ANY-WAY... HEH HEH... IT'S READY!

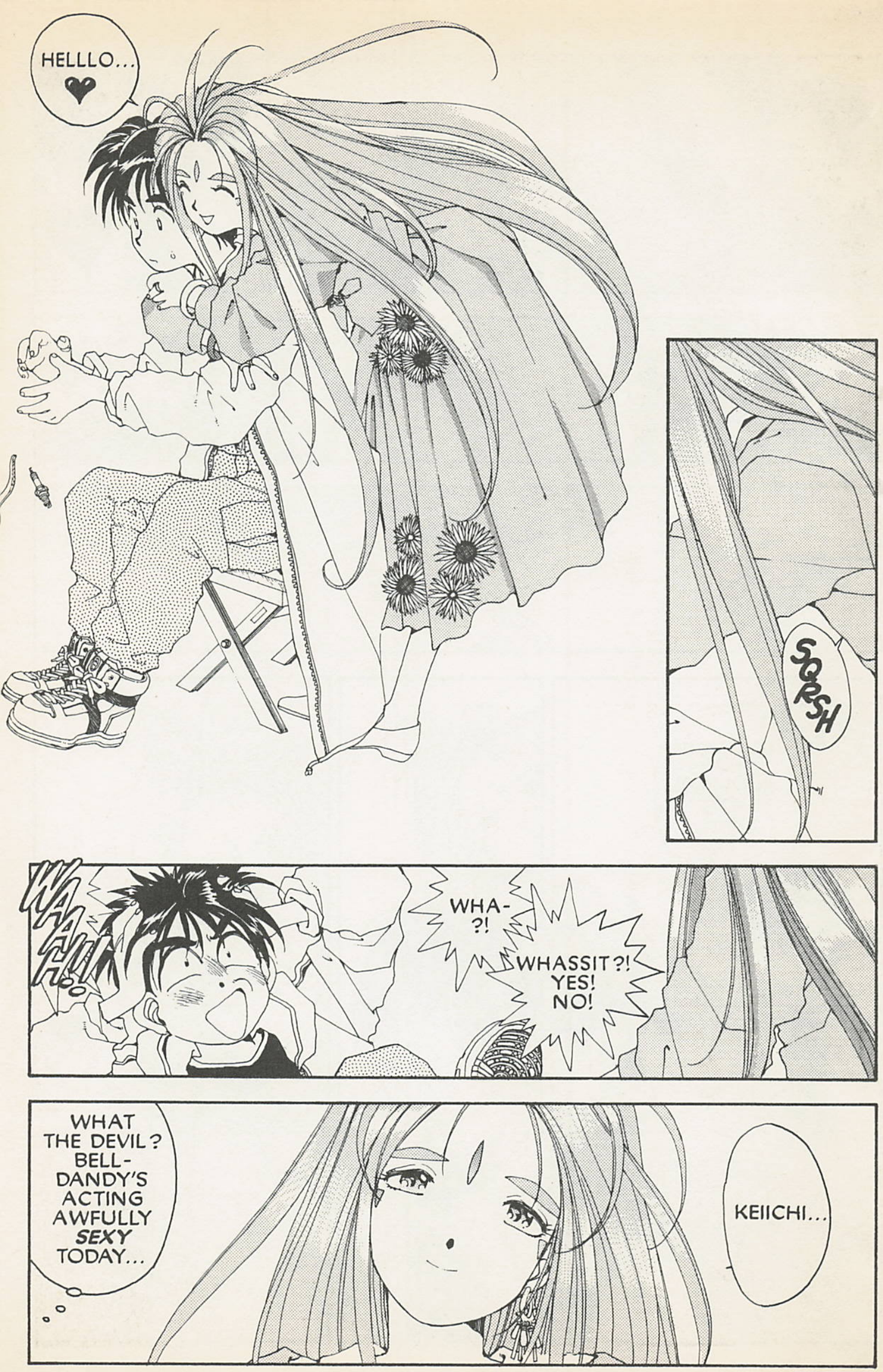

AAH...
ALMOST THERE!

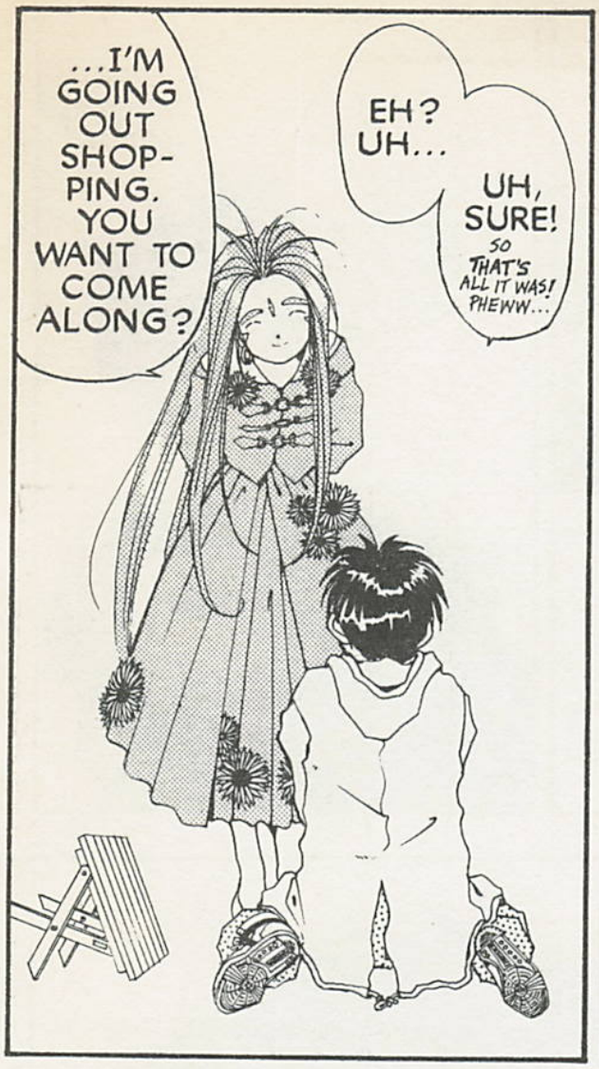

HEY, BELL-DANDY!
MM?
IT'S SOME KIND OF CANDY...?
YEP.
WANNA TRY SOME-THING TASTY?
CHECK IT OUT!
OOH! THEY'RE SO *CUTE!*
HM? BELL-DANDY ....
...AND URD--
HEY... WHAT'S *THAT* STUFF?
NO! NO *WAY!* NOT THAT POTION SHE WAS MAKING ...?!
...!!

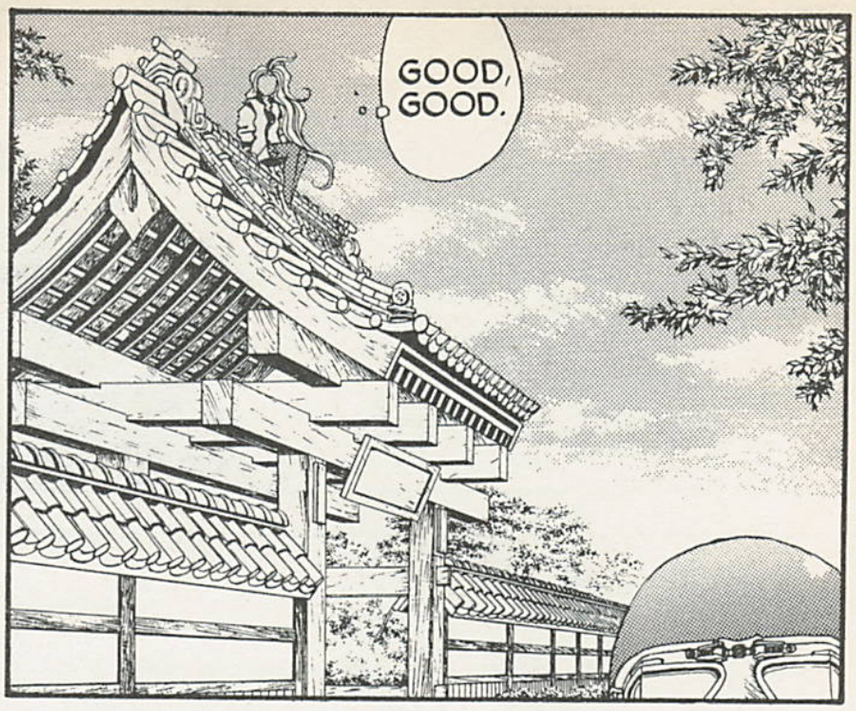

AAGH! EVEN IF IT *IS*, I CAN'T SAY *ANY-THING!*
IF I DO... URD'S PUNISH-MENT, THAT *UNSPEAK-ABLE* PUNISH-MENT...!
FORGIVE ME, BELL-DANDY! I COULD ENDURE *ANYTHING* ELSE. BUT NOT... *THAT!*
THEY LOOK DELICIOUS!
COME ON...
...
NO! *NO!*
MM...
...!

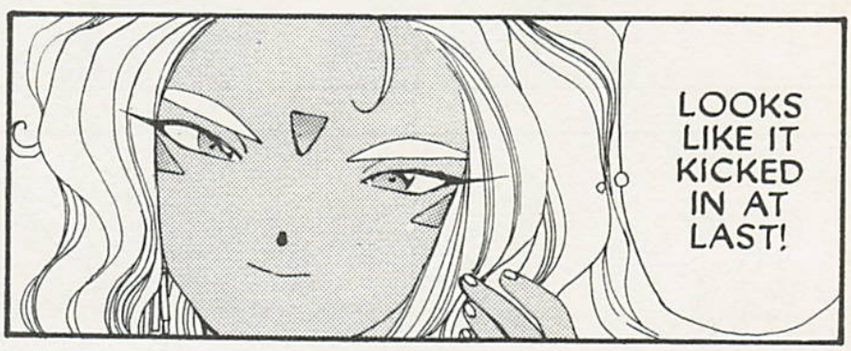

YUMMY!
SOME-THING WRONG?
ME? NO, NO!
HAH! IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT WEIRD GUNK I ADDED TO IT, I BET.
YES, THAT *MUST* BE IT! I *PRO-TECTED* MY DEAR SISTER!
I *AM* A GENIUS!
THAT IS JUST *TOO* WEIRD...?
THANKS AGAIN, URD!
AT THE TIME, URD DIDN'T NOTICE...
...THAT IN FACT, A MAJOR CHANGE HAD *INDEED* COME OVER BELL-DANDY.

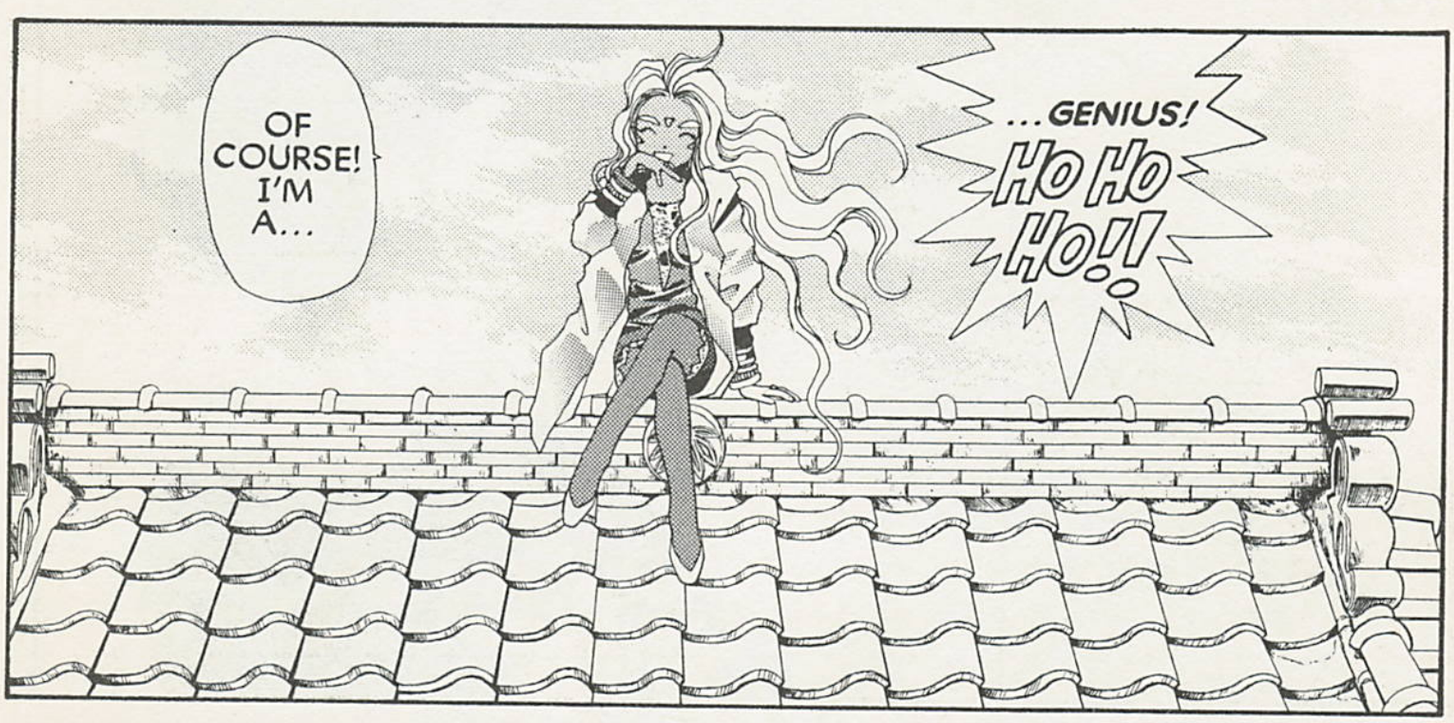

MY... MY HEART...
KE...
II...
CHI...
...
DANG, THOUGHT SO. CYLINDER ONE IS RUNNING TOO LEAN.
THE PLUG'S ALL WHITE.

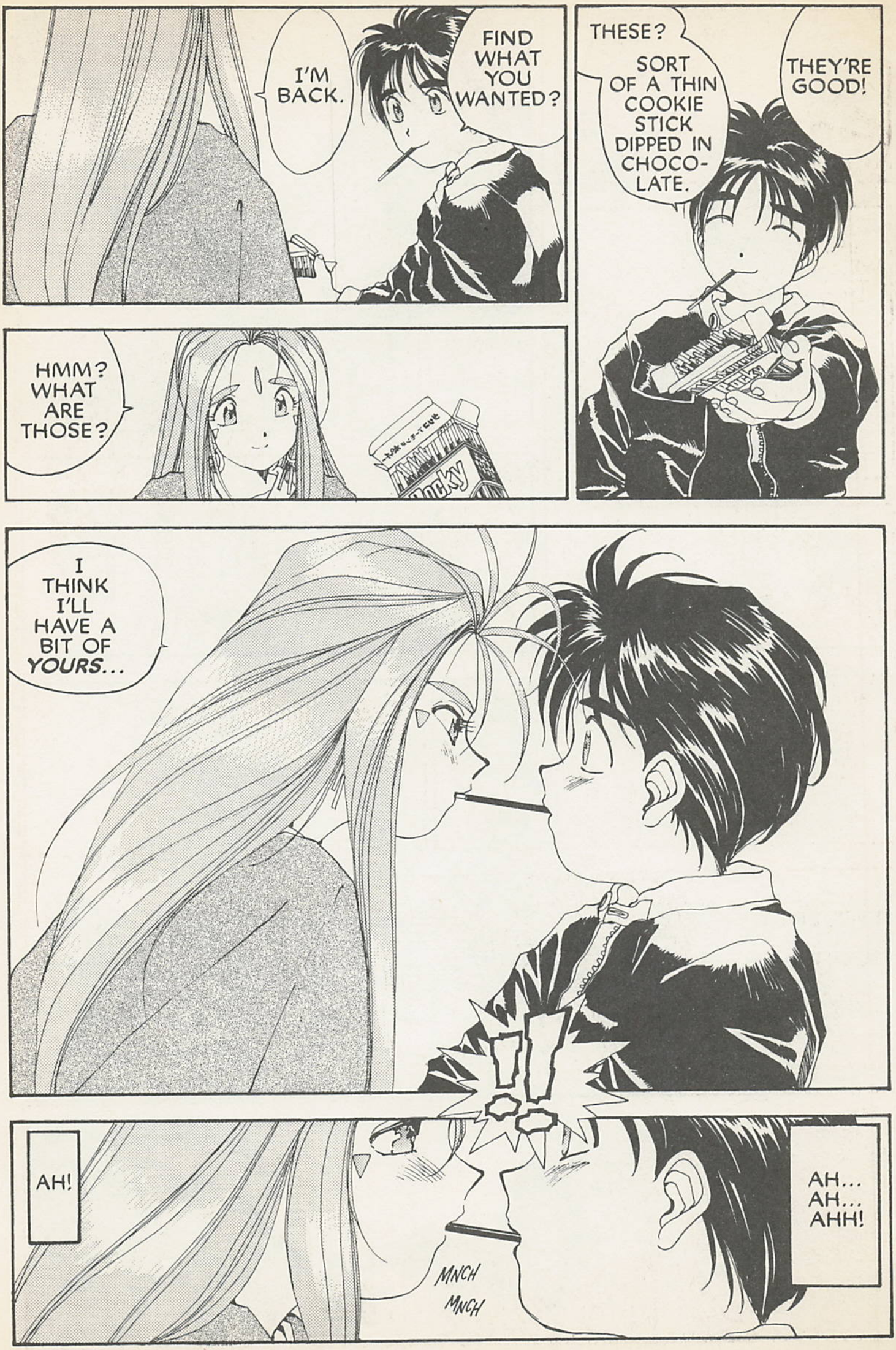

HELLLO...
SQRSH
WAAHH!
WHA-?!
WHASSIT?! YES! NO!
WHAT THE DEVIL? BELL-DANDY'S ACTING AWFULLY SEXY TODAY...
KEIICHI...

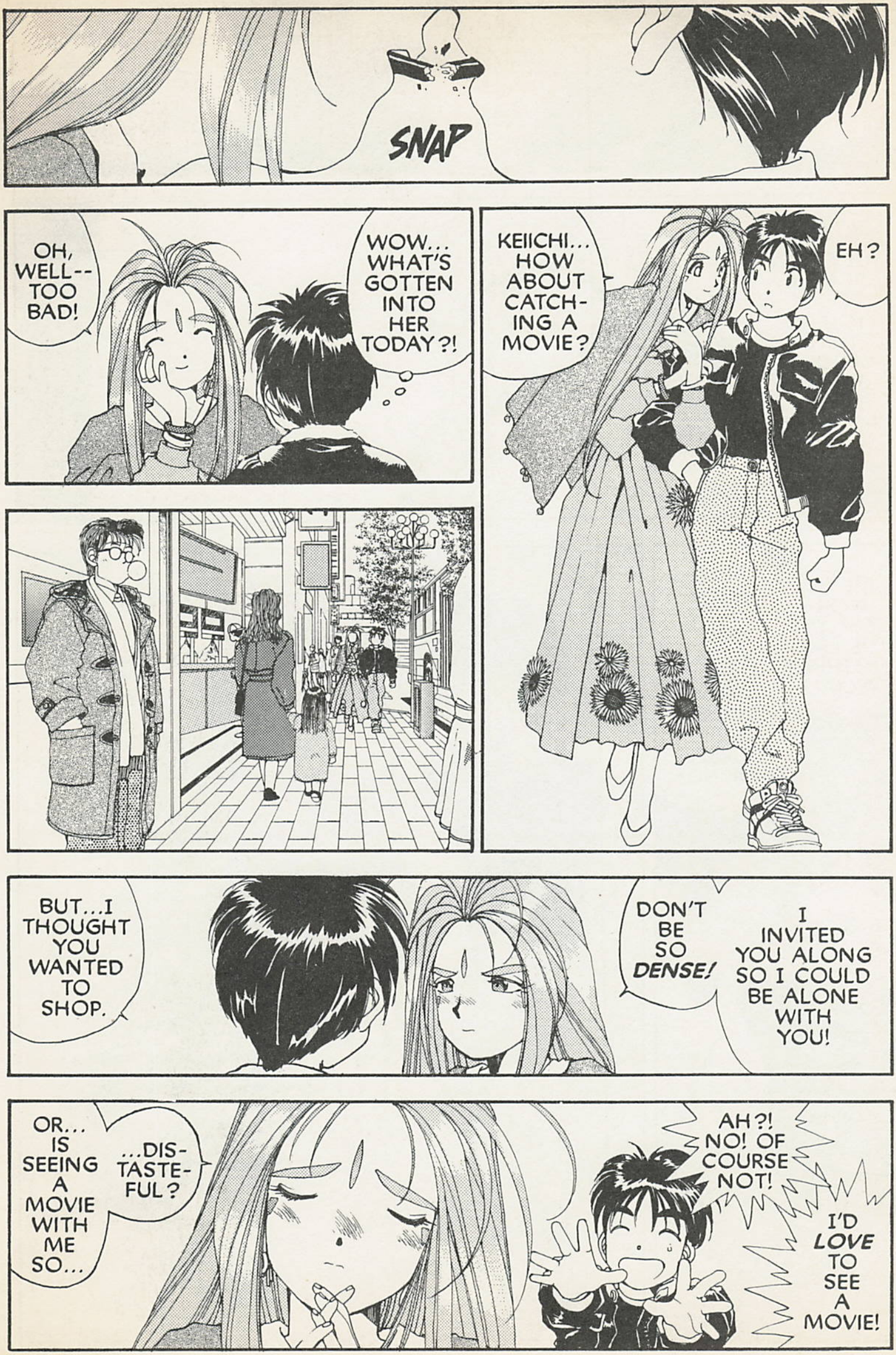

...I'M GOING OUT SHOP-PING. YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?
EH? UH...
UH, SURE!
SO THAT'S ALL IT WAS! PHEWW...

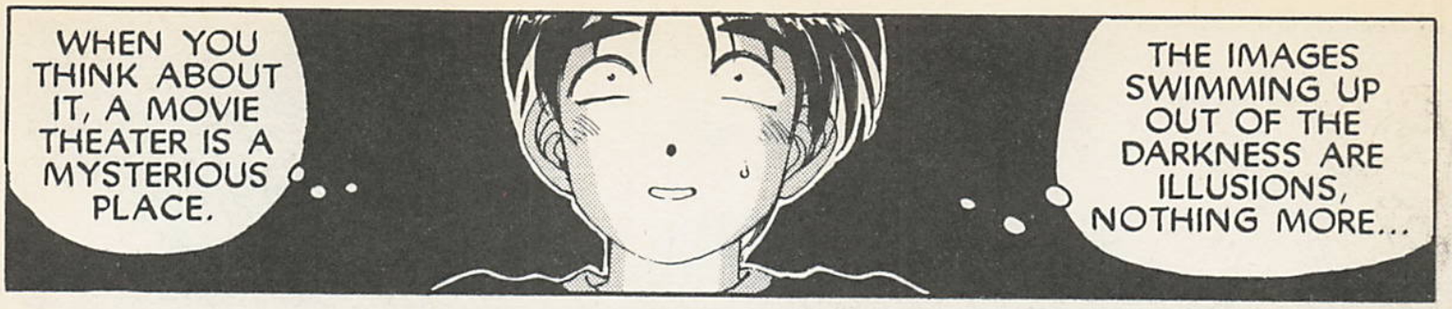

GOOD, GOOD.

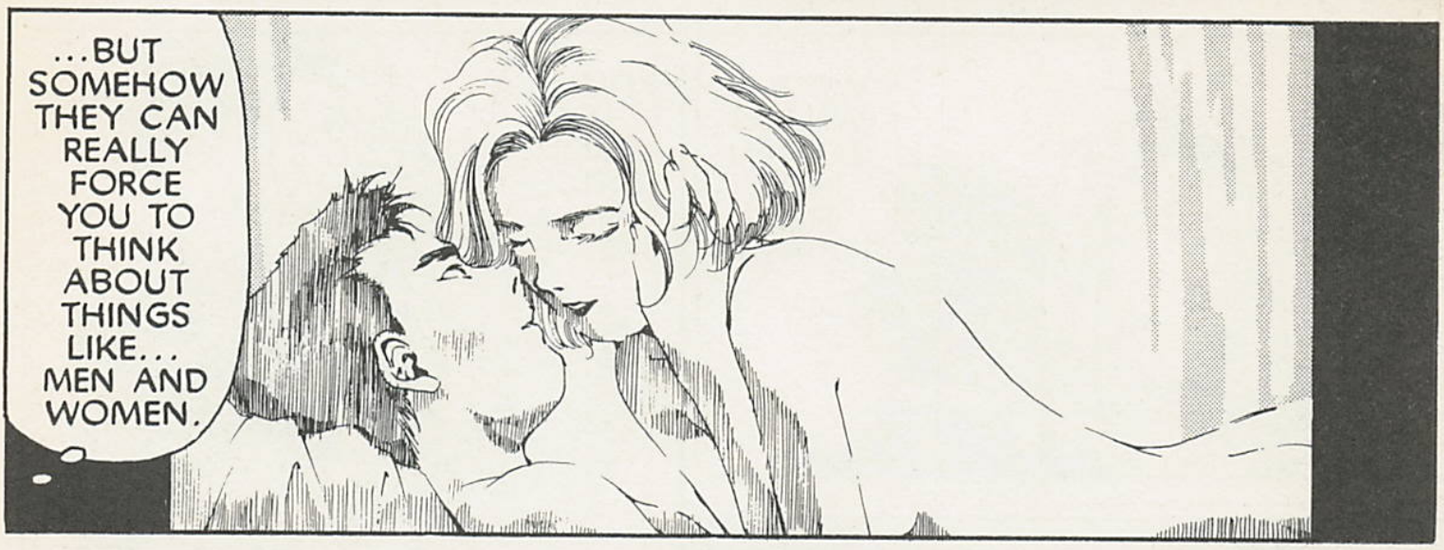

LOOKS LIKE IT KICKED IN AT LAST!

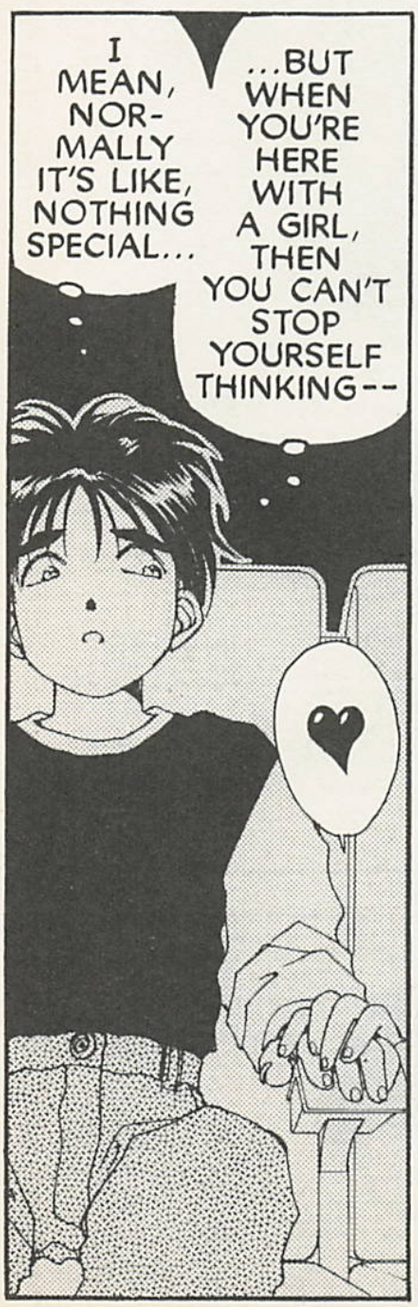

OF COURSE! I'M A...
...GENIUS!
HO HO HO!!

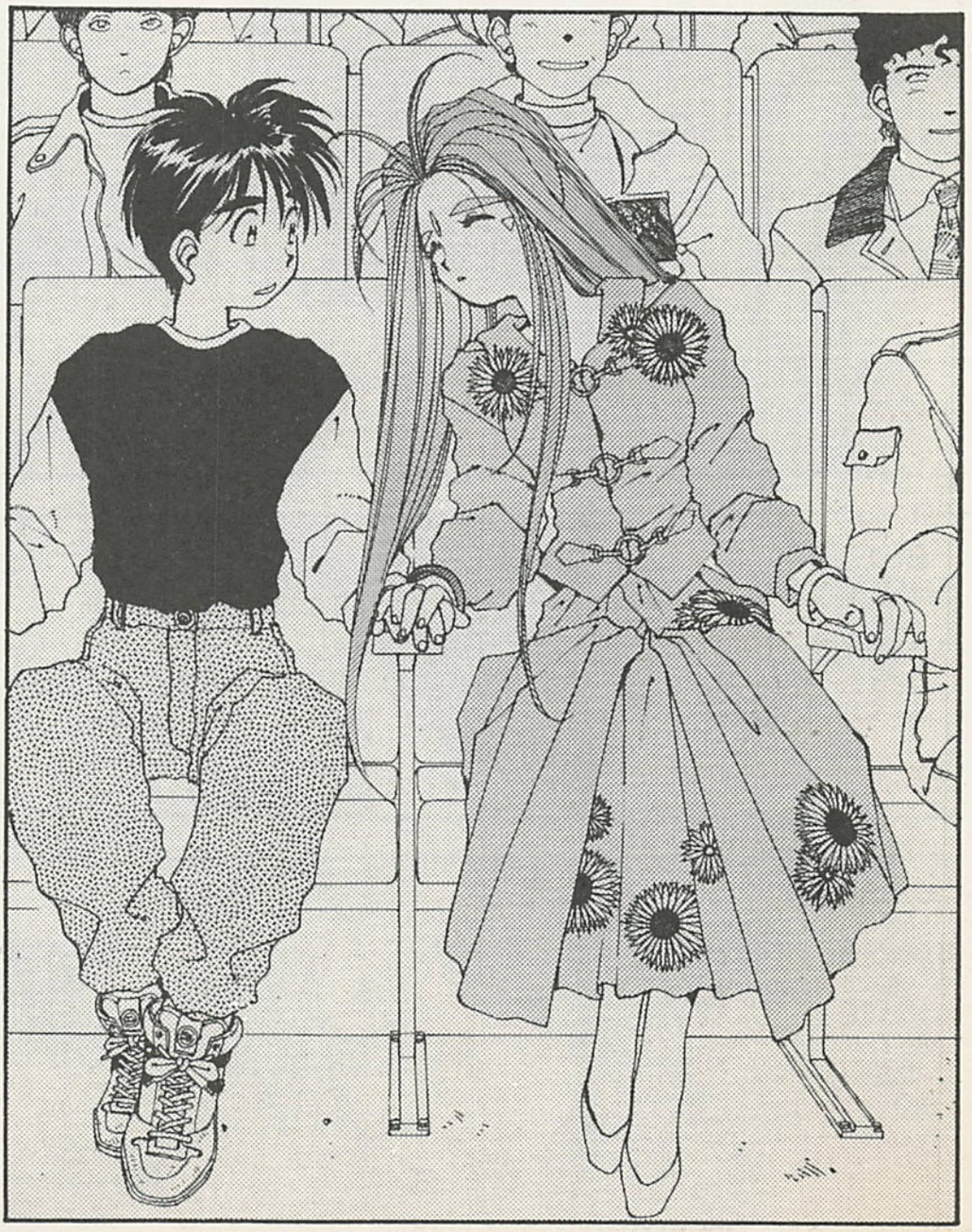

I'M BACK.
FIND WHAT YOU WANTED?
THESE?
SORT OF A THIN COOKIE STICK DIPPED IN CHOCO-LATE.
THEY'RE GOOD!
HMM? WHAT ARE THOSE?
I THINK I'LL HAVE A BIT OF YOURS...
AH!
MNCH MNCH
AH... AH... AHH!

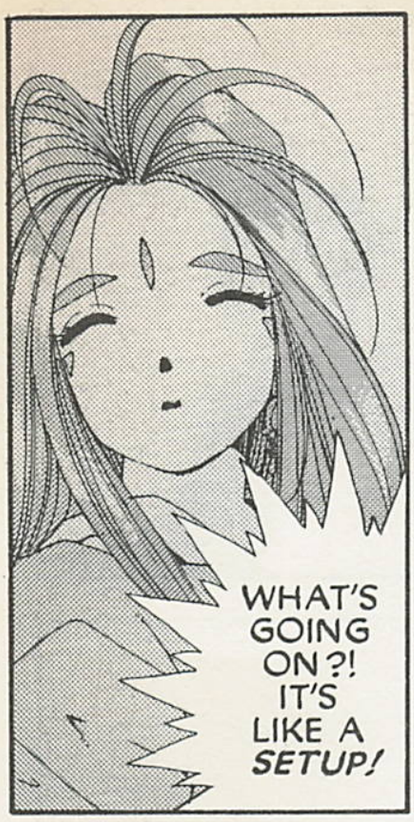

SNAP
OH, WELL-- TOO BAD!
WOW... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER TODAY?!
KEIICHI... HOW ABOUT CATCH-ING A MOVIE?
EH?
BUT...I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO SHOP.
DON'T BE SO DENSE!
I INVITED YOU ALONG SO I COULD BE ALONE WITH YOU!
OR... IS SEEING A MOVIE WITH ME SO...
...DIS-TASTE-FUL?
AH?! NO! OF COURSE NOT!
I'D LOVE TO SEE A MOVIE!

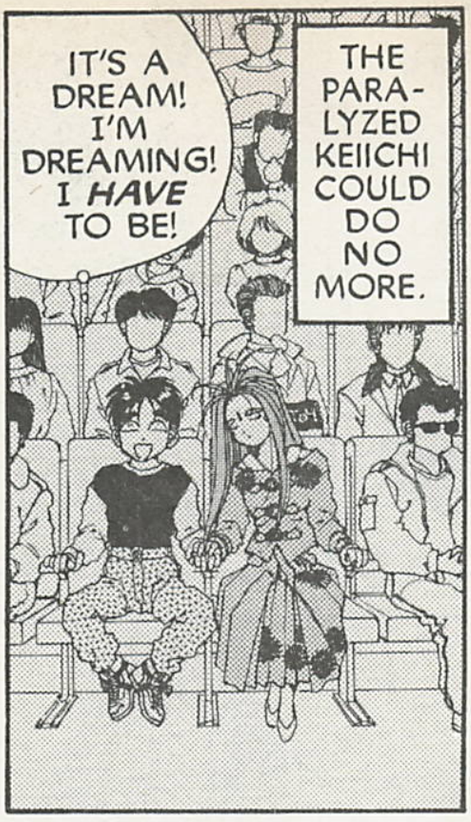

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, A MOVIE THEATER IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE...
THE IMAGES SWIMMING UP OUT OF THE DARKNESS ARE ILLUSIONS, NOTHING MORE...

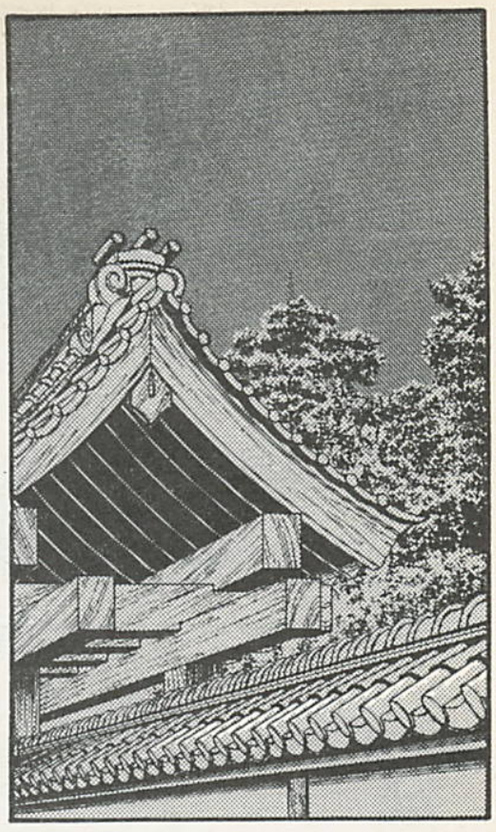

...BUT SOMEHOW THEY CAN REALLY FORCE YOU TO THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE... MEN AND WOMEN.

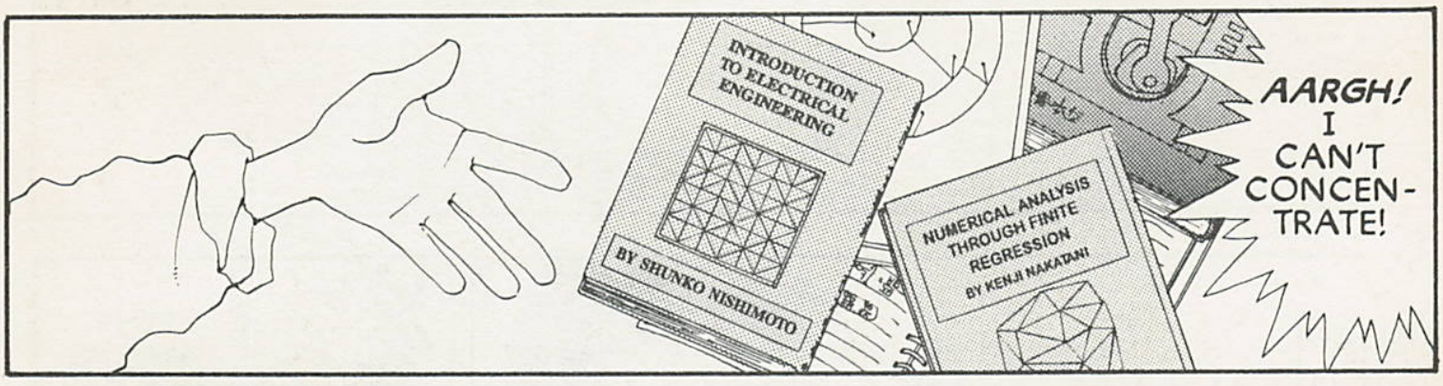

I MEAN, NORMALLY IT'S LIKE, NOTHING SPECIAL...
...BUT WHEN YOU'RE HERE WITH A GIRL, THEN YOU CAN'T STOP YOURSELF THINKING--

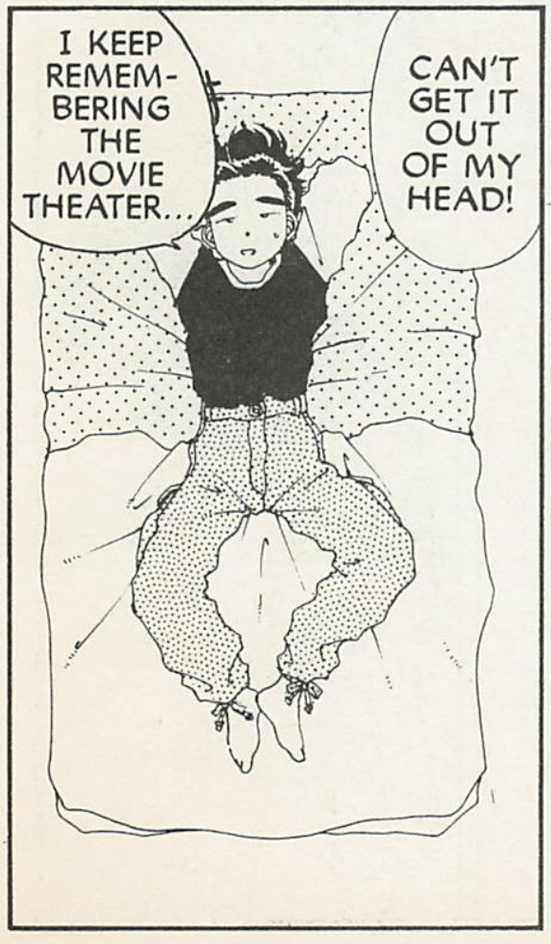


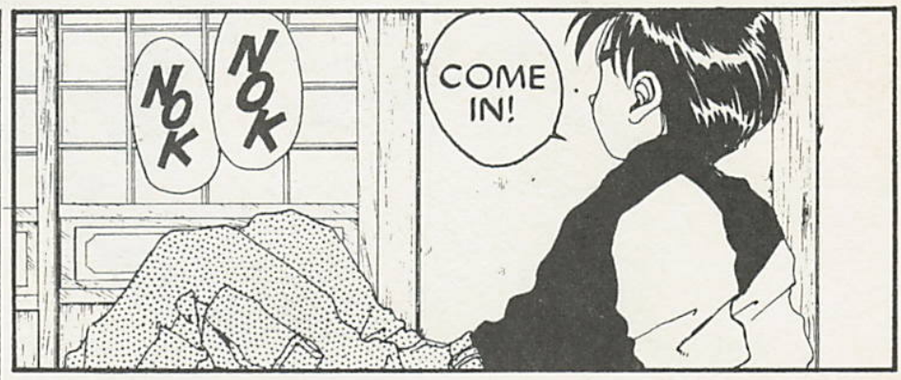

WHAT'S GOING ON?! IT'S LIKE A SETUP!

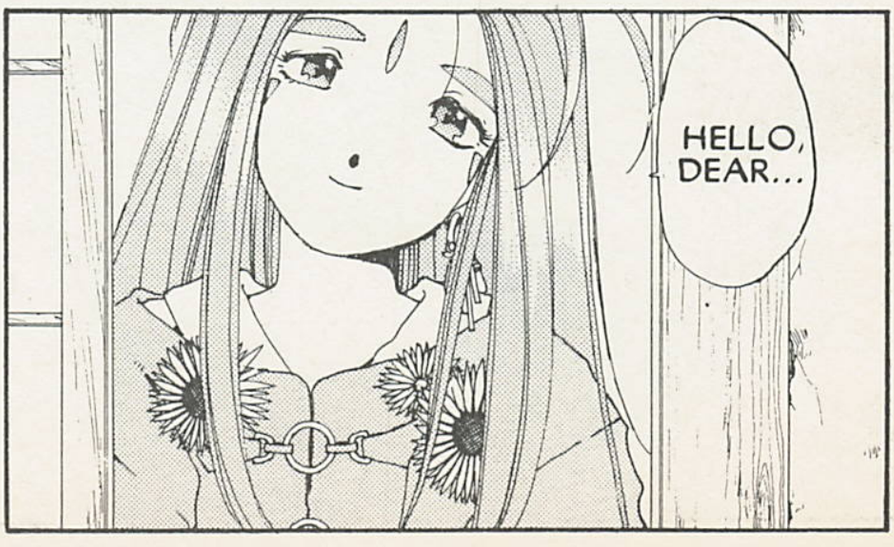

IT'S A DREAM! I'M DREAMING! I HAVE TO BE!
THE PARA-LYZED KEIICHI COULD DO NO MORE.

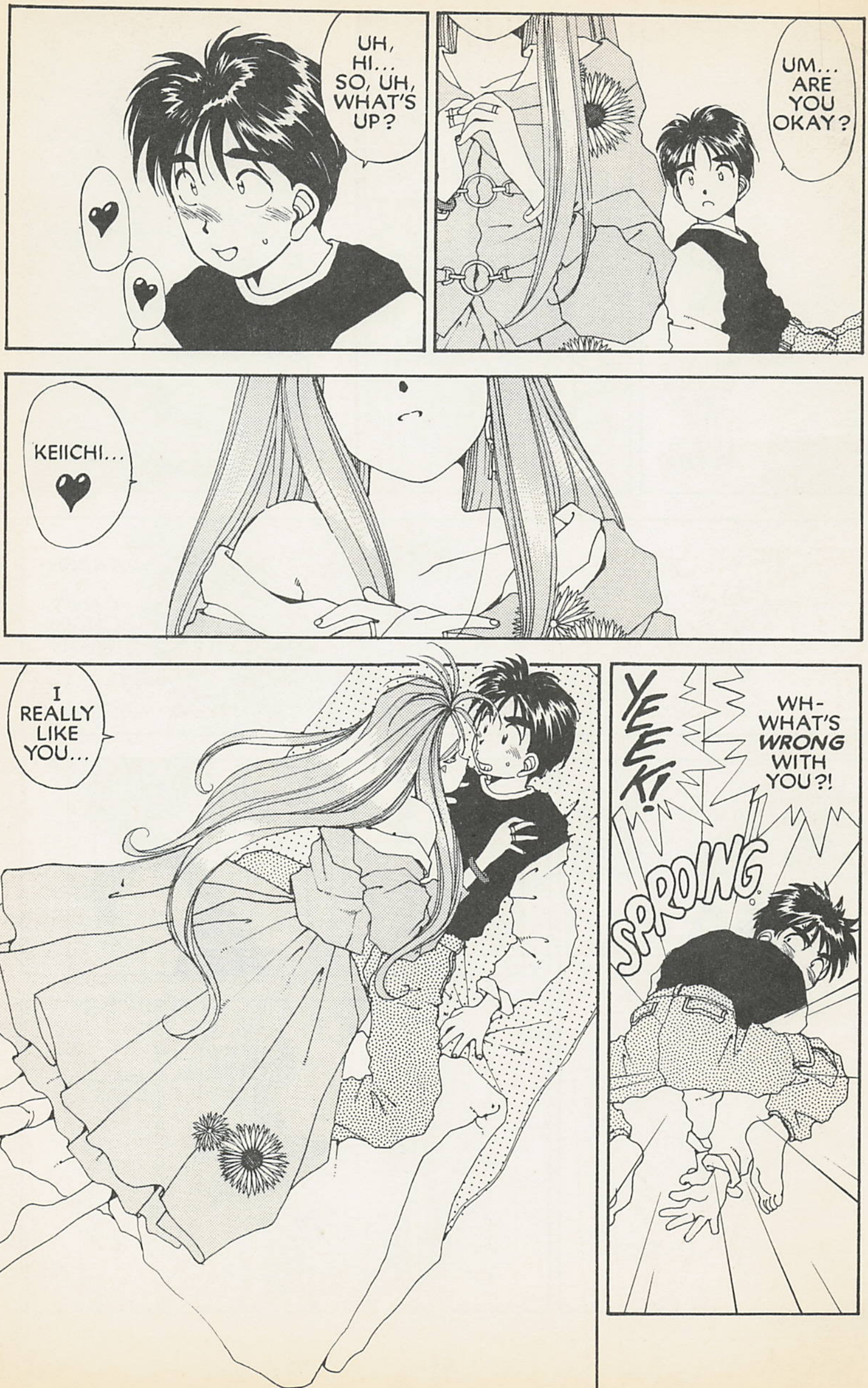


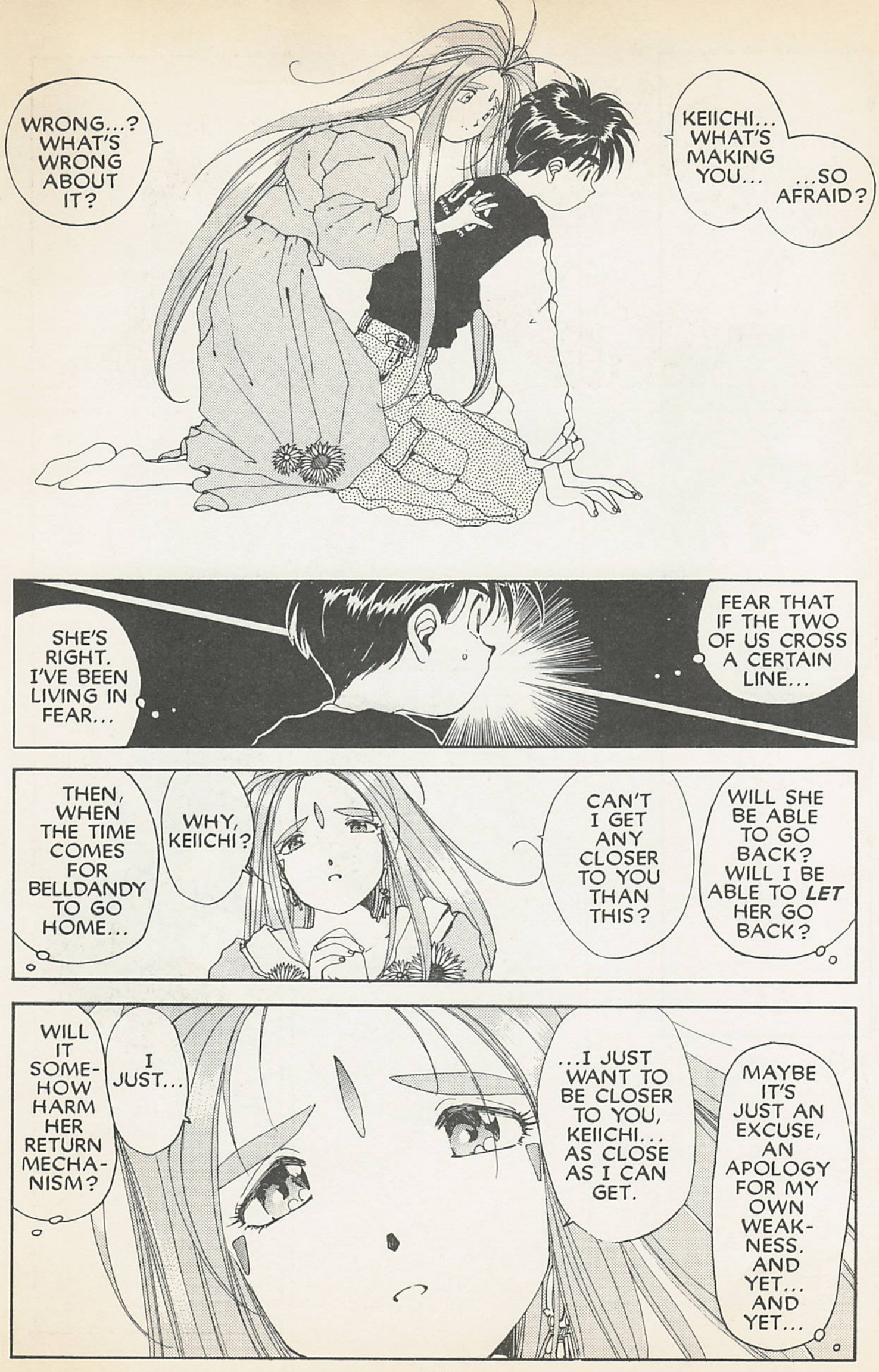

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
BY SHUNKO NISHIMOTO
NUMERICAL ANALYSIS THROUGH FINITE REGRESSION
BY KENJI NAKATANI
AARGH! I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE!


I KEEP REMEM-BERING THE MOVIE THEATER...
CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD!

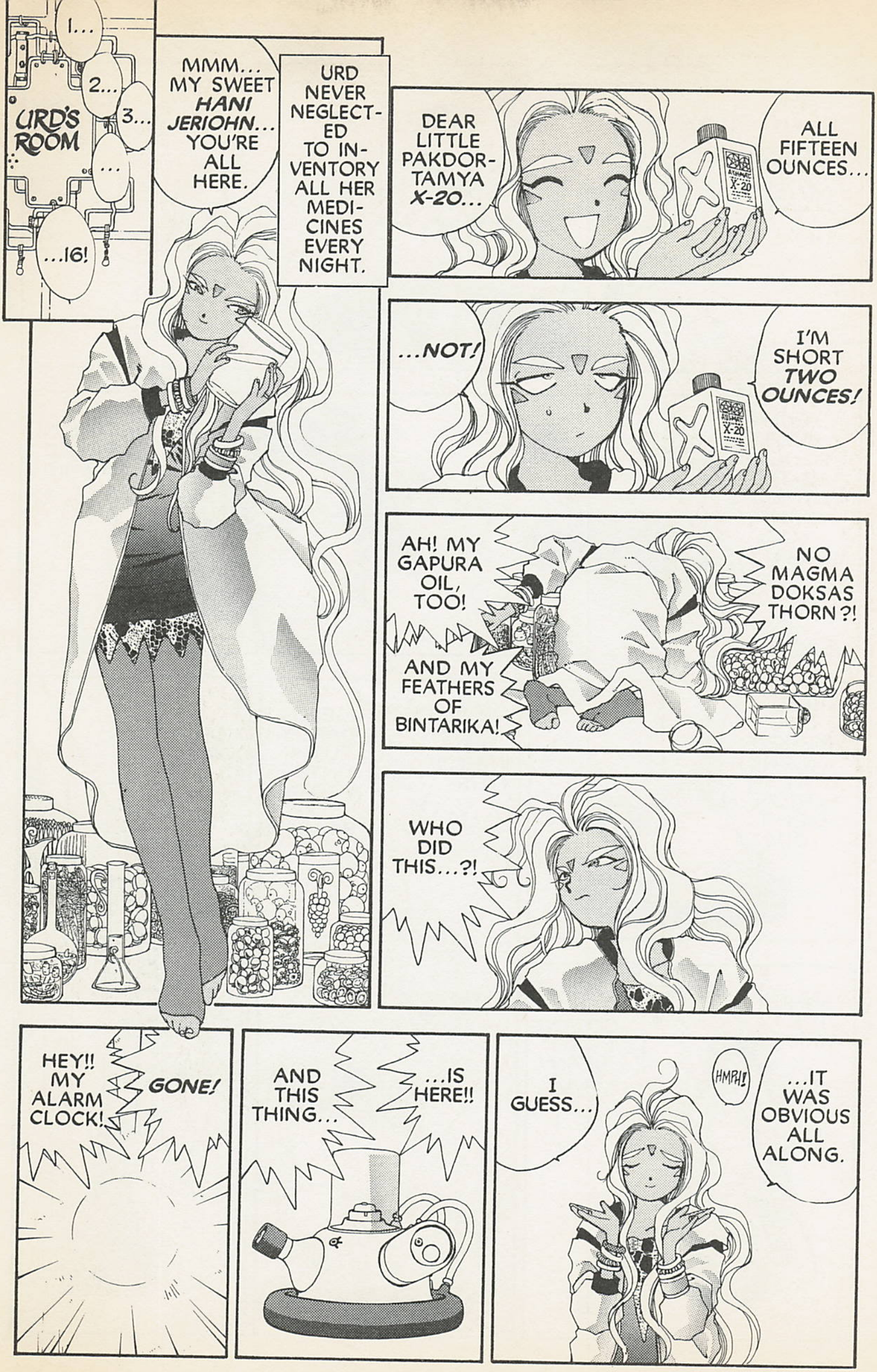

NOK
NOK
COME IN!

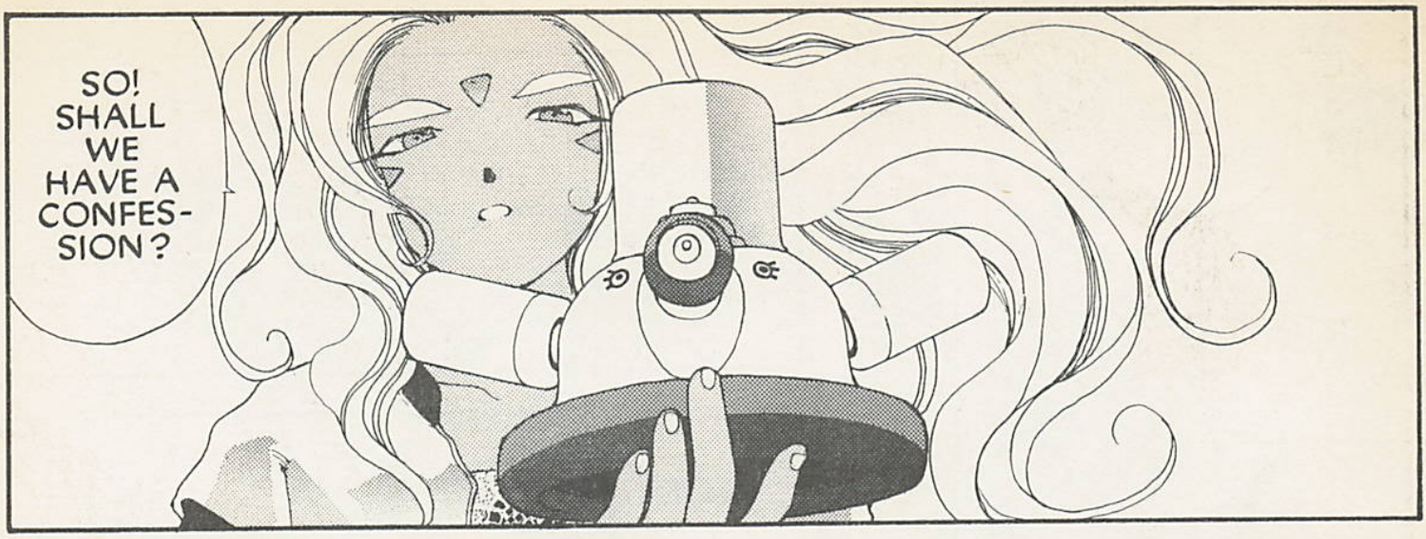

HELLO, DEAR...

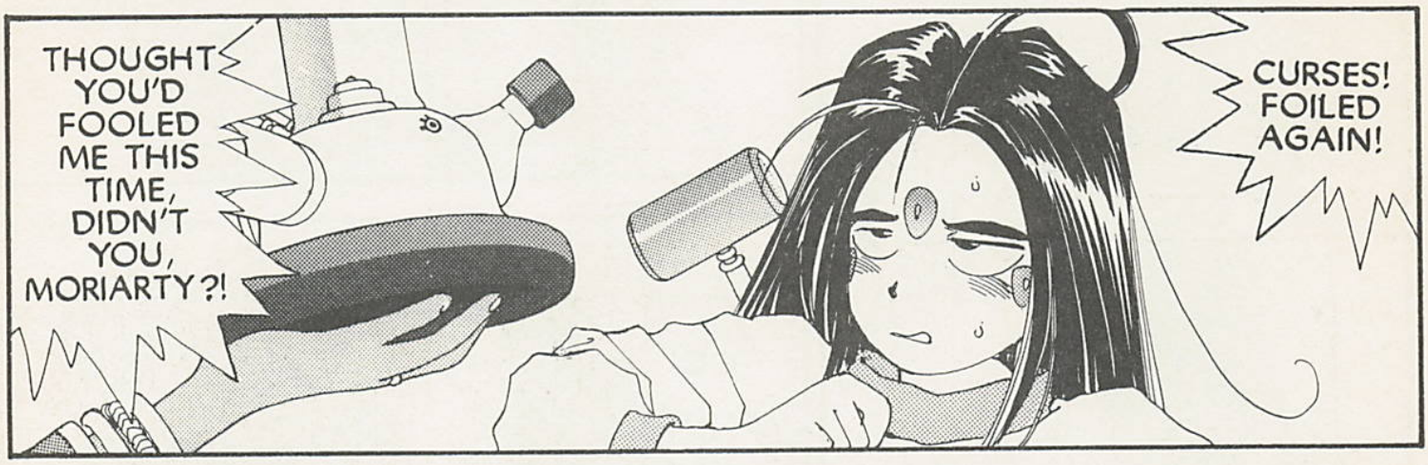

UH, HI... SO, UH, WHAT'S UP?
UM... ARE YOU OKAY?
KEIICHI...
I REALLY LIKE YOU...
YEEK!
WH- WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
SPROING

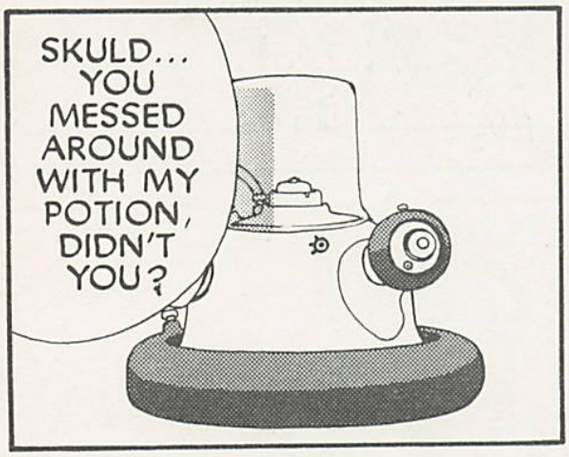

WRONG...? WHAT'S WRONG ABOUT IT?
KEIICHI... WHAT'S MAKING YOU...
...SO AFRAID?
SHE'S RIGHT. I'VE BEEN LIVING IN FEAR...
FEAR THAT IF THE TWO OF US CROSS A CERTAIN LINE...
THEN, WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR BELLDANDY TO GO HOME...
WHY, KEIICHI?
CAN'T I GET ANY CLOSER TO YOU THAN THIS?
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO GO BACK? WILL I BE ABLE TO *LET* HER GO BACK?
WILL IT SOME-HOW HARM HER RETURN MECHA-NISM?
I JUST...
...I JUST WANT TO BE CLOSER TO YOU, KEIICHI... AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET.
MAYBE IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE, AN APOLOGY FOR MY OWN WEAK-NESS. AND YET... AND YET...

AH, THE HELL WITH IT! I CAN'T *STAND IT* ANY-MORE!!

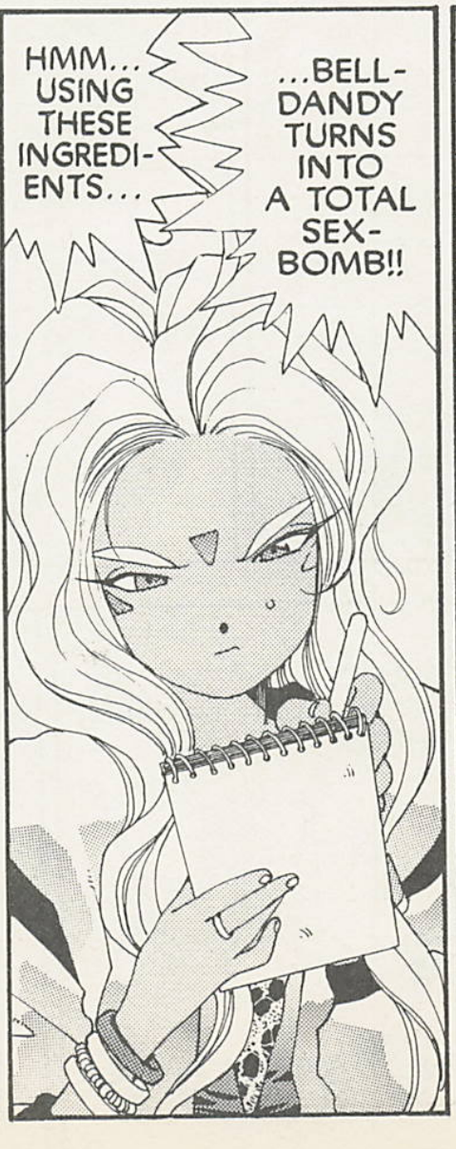

URD'S ROOM
1...
2...
3...
...
...16!
MMM... MY SWEET HANI JERIOHN... YOU'RE ALL HERE.
URD NEVER NEGLECTED TO INVENTORY ALL HER MEDICINES EVERY NIGHT.
DEAR LITTLE PAKDOR-TAMYA X-20...
ALL FIFTEEN OUNCES...
...NOT!
I'M SHORT TWO OUNCES!
AH! MY GAPURA OIL, TOO!
AND MY FEATHERS OF BINTARIKA!
NO MAGMA DOKSAS THORN?!
WHO DID THIS...?!
HEY!! MY ALARM CLOCK!
GONE!
AND THIS THING...
...IS HERE!!
I GUESS...
HMPH!
...IT WAS OBVIOUS ALL ALONG.

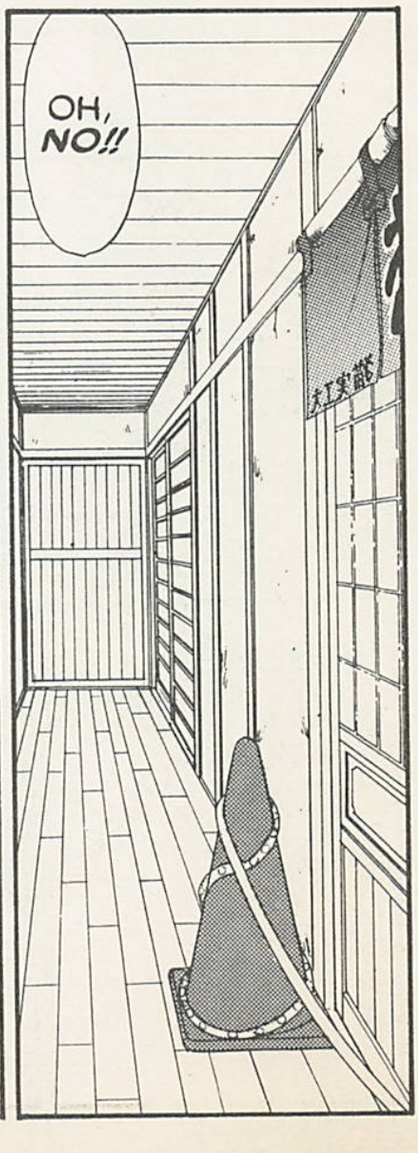

SO! SHALL WE HAVE A CONFES-SION?

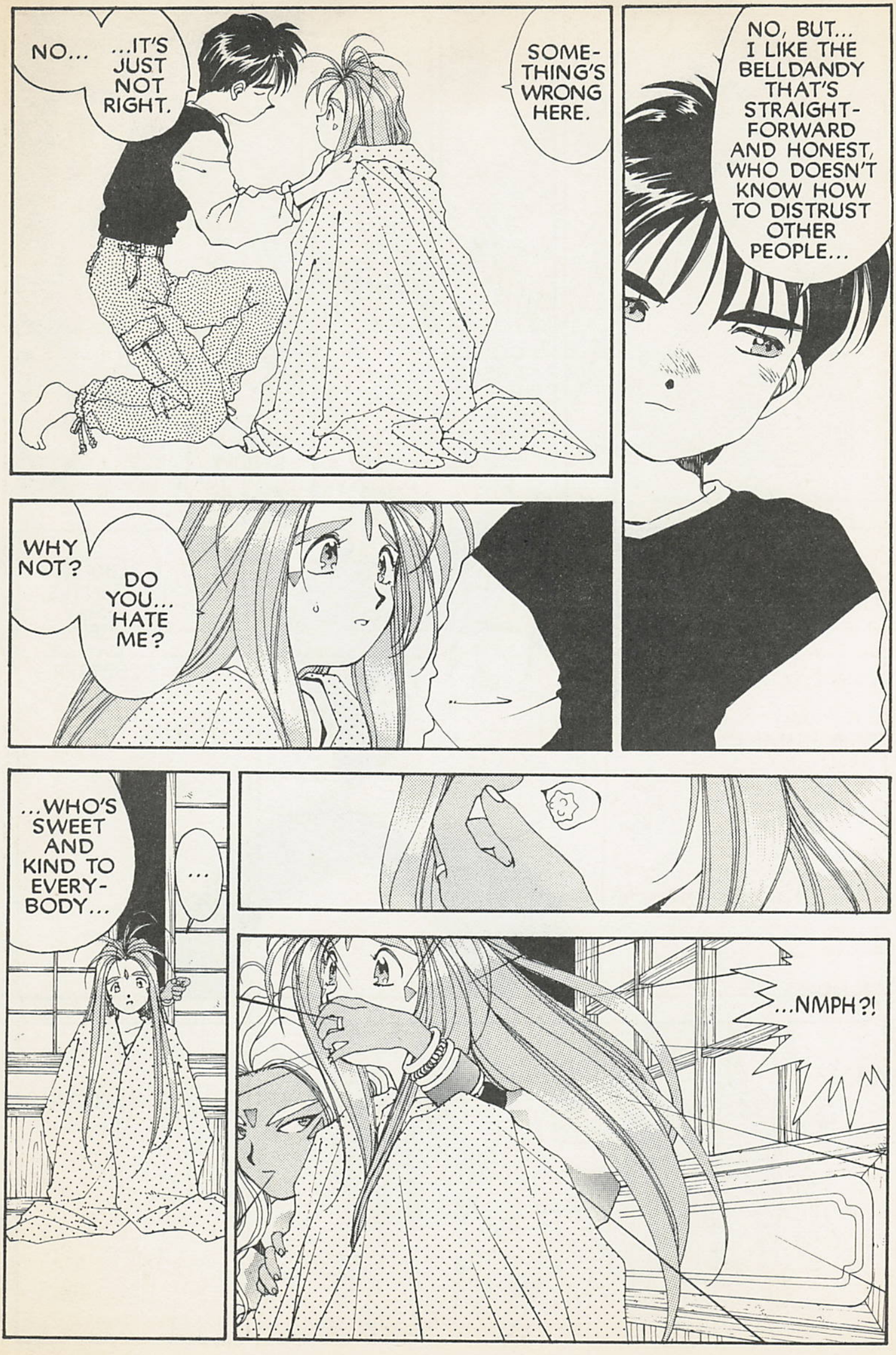

THOUGHT YOU'D FOOLED ME THIS TIME, DIDN'T YOU, MORIARTY?!
CURSES! FOILED AGAIN!

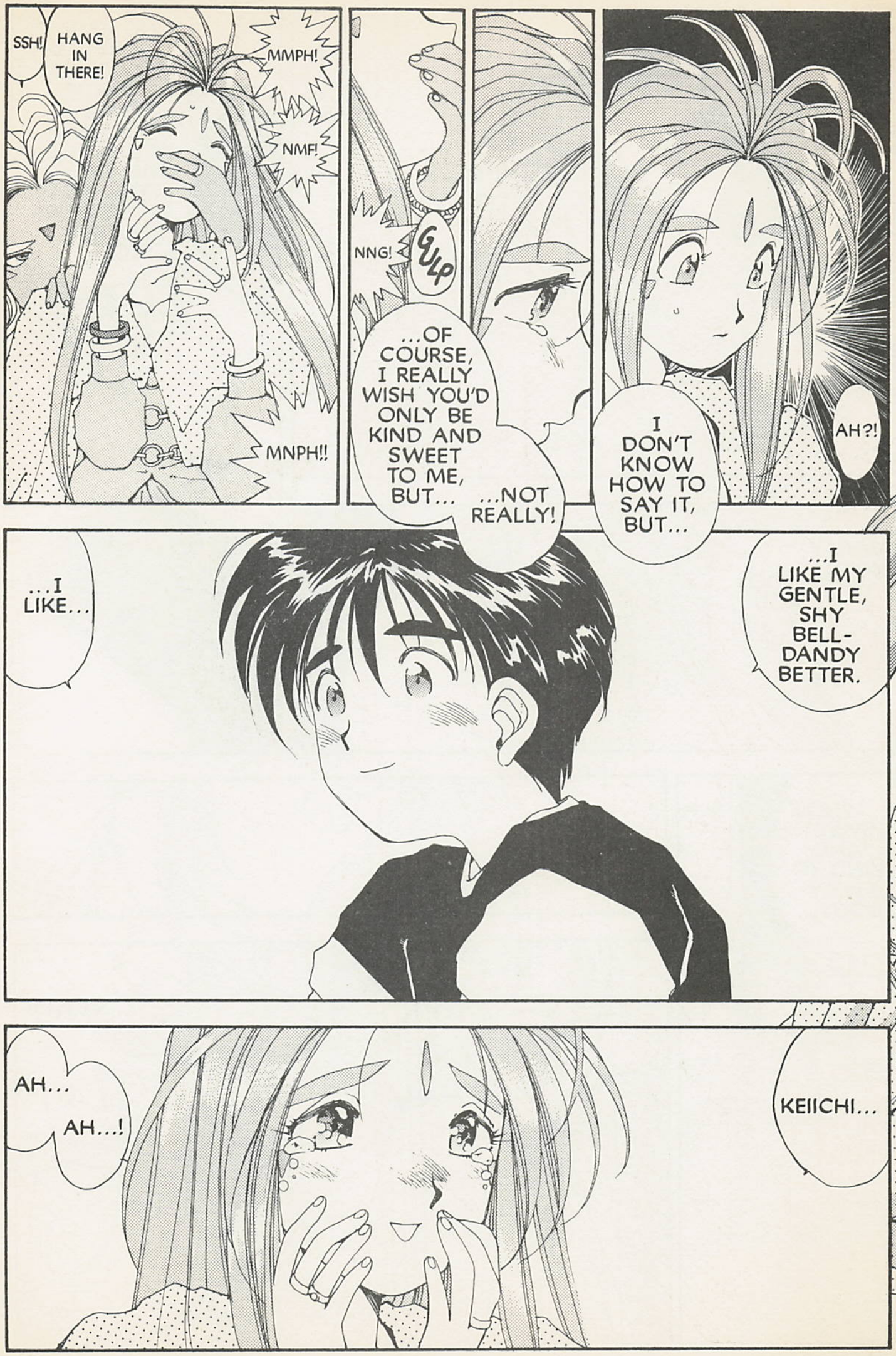

SKULD... YOU MESSED AROUND WITH MY POTION, DIDN'T YOU?

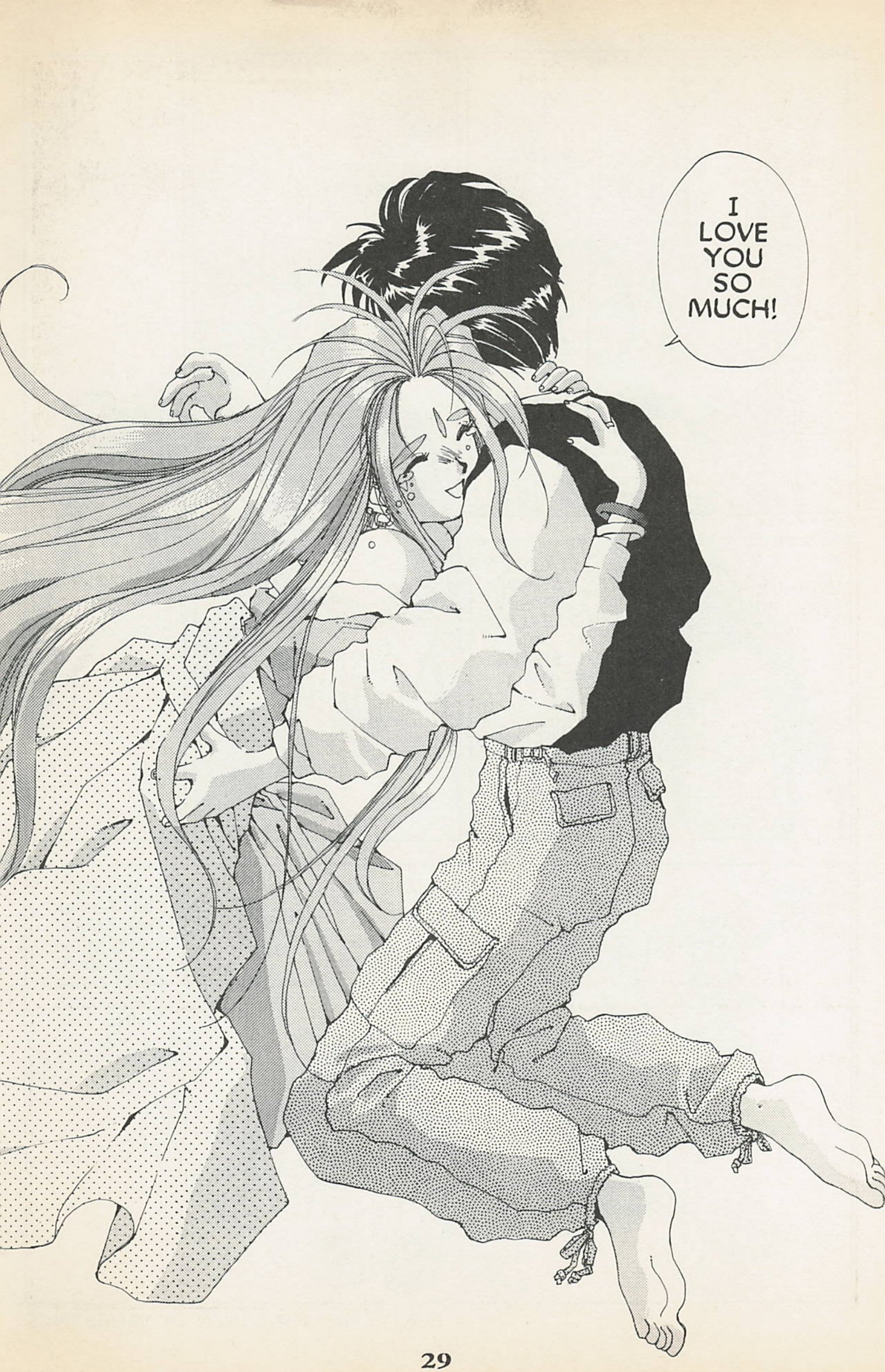
SNFF IT'S TRUE.
SNIFF
YOU DON'T GOTTA BE SO *MEAN* ABOUT IT, SIS...!

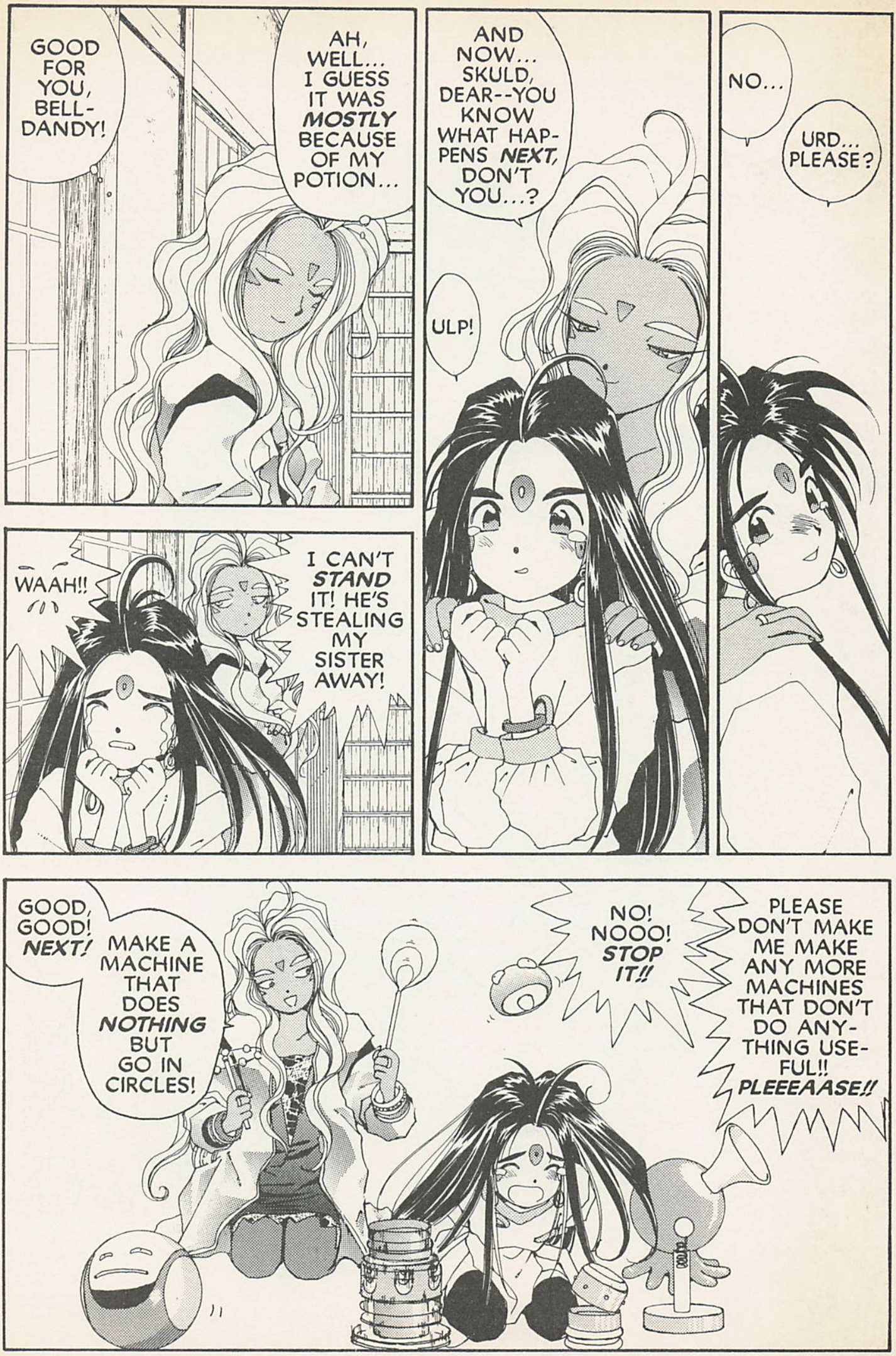

HMM... USING THESE INGREDI-ENTS...
...BELL-DANDY TURNS INTO A TOTAL SEX-BOMB!!


OH, *NO!!*


NO...
...IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.
SOME-THING'S WRONG HERE.
NO, BUT... I LIKE THE BELLDANDY THAT'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND HONEST, WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DISTRUST OTHER PEOPLE...
WHY NOT?
DO YOU... HATE ME?
...WHO'S SWEET AND KIND TO EVERY-BODY...
...
...NMPH?!


SSH!
HANG IN THERE!
MMPH!
NMF!
MNPH!!
NNG!
GULP
...OF COURSE, I REALLY WISH YOU'D ONLY BE KIND AND SWEET TO ME, BUT...
...NOT REALLY!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT...
AH?!
...I LIKE...
...I LIKE MY GENTLE, SHY BELL-DANDY BETTER.
AH...
AH...!
KEIICHI...


I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!


GOOD FOR YOU, BELL-DANDY!
AH, WELL... I GUESS IT WAS *MOSTLY* BECAUSE OF MY POTION...
AND NOW... SKULD, DEAR--YOU KNOW WHAT HAP-PENS *NEXT*, DON'T YOU...?
ULP!
NO...
URD... PLEASE?
WAAH!!
I CAN'T *STAND* IT! HE'S STEALING MY SISTER AWAY!
GOOD, GOOD! *NEXT!*
MAKE A MACHINE THAT DOES *NOTHING* BUT GO IN CIRCLES!
NO! NOOO! *STOP IT!!*
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME MAKE ANY MORE MACHINES THAT DON'T DO ANY-THING USE-FUL!! *PLEEEAASE!!*

NEXT ISSUE: THE QUEEN OF VENGEANCE

Letters to the Enchantress

WRITE US AT: 10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OREGON 97222 • [e-mail] dhc@teleport.com • [WWW] http://www.dhorse.com

Dear Enchantress,

I just finished reading "Robot Wars" and it was great! (Especially since Skuld is my favorite goddess, next to Urd.) This comic just gets better and better for me.

The whole rivalry between Skuld and Megumi was hysterical. Megumi seemed to be a little dense at first, but turned out to be fairly intelligent, machine-wise.

Oh, and one question: Who are Mara and Aoshima? (Bear with me; I only have a few issues of this manga.)

Sayonara!

Alison "Ali" Cappelieri
Danbury, CT

Thanks for your letter, Alison. Mara is a Demon First Class who popped out of a compact disc way back in Oh My Goddess! *issue 4 ("The CD from Hell," published in November 1994). Aoshima is one of Keiichi's major rivals. Keiichi belongs to the Nekomi Tech Motor Club; Aoshima is president of the Nekomi Tech Four Wheels Club. For a good look at them in competition, get a copy of the* OMG! *special, "Mystical Engine" from February 1996.*

Dear Enchantress,

I want to thank everyone at Dark Horse for all the heart and hard work put into the excellent manga, *Oh My Goddess!*.

As a child I was a die-hard fan of DC and Marvel comics. As I grew up, however, I lost interest as I noticed a definite lack of maturity in most of those titles. Several years later I discovered manga and found what I was missing: thought-out plots, excellent character design and development, lovingly rendered illustrations. . . Perhaps there was hope for the comic-book industry after all.

The title I have become most fond of is *Oh My Goddess!*. Most of my friends have complained that all manga is merely mecha-driven super-violence. *OMG!* proves that this doesn't have to be true. The characters and how they interact are what truly hold my interest about this series. It is a classic story of a seemingly impossible love affair that succeeds in growing stronger in spite of (or because of?) countless obstacles interwoven with tales of thwarted vengeance and rivalry. The lighthearted approach to this story, unforgettable characters like Belldandy, and outstanding artwork of Kosuke Fujishima make *OMG!* a classic manga. Is it any wonder it is as well-loved as it is?

In addition to the superb *OMG!* series, I am an avid fan of *3x3 Eyes*, *Bubblegum Crisis*, *The Dirty Pair*, and *Dominion*. Are there plans to continue these series? It would truly be a loss if they did not. Also, are there plans to add any new titles to the Dark Horse manga line-up?

Keep up the great work!

Thurston Sherman
Columbus, OH

Although new stories from the series you mentioned above are not on our schedule at the moment, Thurston, stay tuned. At least some of those series should be returning sooner or later.

For your information (and everyone else's), Dark Horse will publish a new 3x3 Eyes *paperback collecting the "Curse of the Gesu" stories in February and a* Dominion *paperback collecting the "Conflict 1 — No More Noise" series in March.*

Dear Enchantress & Crew,

Hi! How are you all?! I'm writing today for two reasons. The first is to let you know how much I appreciate your work in bringing us *Oh My Goddess!* manga. I am completely crazy-mad for it! I think that *OMG!* is simply fabulous! I have watched the anime videos so many times that I have them memorized, and the *OMG!* soundtrack CD lives in my CD player 24/7. I enjoy the manga immensely and look forward to it every month.

The second thing I'm writing about is that in this very letters page, I have read letters from people who like *OMG!* just as much as I do! I would like more than anything to get in touch with these awesome people. Do you think you could please print my address so that anyone who wants to can write me? Thanks so much!

Elizabeth Murray
Lexington, IN

Sure we'll print your address, Elizabeth. Check out the last two OMG! *issues for names and addresses of other people who want to send and write letters. Here's Elizabeth's address, and also the address of Rijckx Frank, an* OMG! *fan from Belgium:*

Elizabeth Murray
1627 North Shea Road
Lexington, IN 47138

Rijckx Frank
Olmenbosstraat 12
B-3511 Hasselt, Belgium

Next month: *Every stitch in Belldandy's hand-knit sweater for Keiichi is full of her thoughts of him. But before she delivers it, Belldandy must deal with her jealous rival Sayoko and a hungry dog who mistakes the token of love for an afternoon snack! Can the goddesses find the missing sweater before Keiichi comes home, or will Sayoko succeed in breaking the two young lovers apart?*

SAME PLANET, DIFFERENT WORLD!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET,

THERE'S A DIFFERENT KIND

OF COMIC THAT'S

OUT OF THIS WORLD:

MANGA!

Explore the rest of the universe with these exciting manga trade paperbacks!

APPLESEED
By Masamune Shirow, creator of *Ghost in the Shell.*
BOOK 1
192 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$14.95
BOOK 2
192 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$14.95
BOOK 3
224 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$14.95
BOOK 4
224 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$14.95
DATABOOK
128 B&W pages!
$12.95

BUBBLEGUM CRISIS : GRAND MAL
By Adam Warren, creator of *Dirty Pair: Fatal but not Serious.*
112 full-color pages!
$14.95

GODZILLA
By Kazuhisu Iwata
200 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$17.95

DOMINION
By Masamune Shirow
214 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$14.95

DIRTY PAIR
By Adam Warren
DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL
2nd ed. $13.95
DIRTY PAIR: DANGEROUS ACQUAINTANCES
HC $30.00
DIRTY PAIR: DANGEROUS ACQUAINTANCES
LTD HC $75.00
DIRTY PAIR: A PLAGUE OF ANGELS $12.95

ORION
By Masamune Shirow
272 B&W pages! 2nd ed.
$17.95

OUTLANDERS
VOL. 1 2nd ed. $13.95
VOL. 2 2nd ed. $13.95
VOL. 3 2nd ed. $13.95
VOL. 4: House of Demons
$12.95

3X3 EYES
By Yuzo Takada
160 B&W pages!
$12.95

THE VENUS WARS
By Yoshikazu Yasuhiko
256 B&W pages!
$13.95

AVAILABLE THROUGH A COMICS SHOP NEAR YOU! OR ORDER DIRECT:
Send your clearly written order along with your name, address, daytime phone number, and your check or money order to: DARK HORSE COMICS, Dept. IHA, 10956 SE Main St., Milwaukie, OR 97222. Phone orders call 1-800-862-0052 (Mon.-Fri. 8AM - 5PM, Pacific Time). Please have your order information and Visa or MasterCard ready. Include $4.00 on orders of 1 to 4 items, 5 or more items add $6.00 for shipping/handling. Canadian orders add an additional $1.00 to the shipping charge. Please allow 4-6 weeks for your order to arrive. All titles subject to availability. **AVAILABLE IN U.S. AND CANADA ONLY (U.S. FUNDS PLEASE). ALL SALES ARE FINAL.**

STUDIO PROTEUS

DARK HORSE COMICS

3x3 Eyes © 1988 by Yuzo Takada. First published in Japan in 1988 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd. English translation and lettering copyright © [year] Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Appleseed, its characters and their distinctive likenesses ™ and © Masamune Shirow and Seishinsha. English translation © Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. The Dirty Pair © Haruka Takachiho. English language version ™ & © Adam Warren and Studio Proteus. Dominion ™ & © Masamune Shirow and Hakusensha; Orion ™ & © Masamune Shirow and Seishinsha; English version logos ™ and translations and lettering © Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

FINISH LINE

The comics business is built on heroes. I'm sure that you all have your favorites — their name is legion! These colorful characters have made it their habit to wade into risky situations, often against impossible odds, and somehow, after a Herculean struggle or two, manage to emerge victorious. We seldom tire of these exploits. Month after month our heroes never fail to rise to the occasion and seldom fall short when measured against the task.

I'd like to talk about some of Dark Horse's heroes. I don't mean Ghost or X or Motorhead, nor Hellboy, Monkeyman nor O'Brien. I am speaking of the behind-the-scenes champions of our in-house production and design team. Take it from me, these folks tackle challenges that would have Luke Skywalker and Han Solo shaking in their boots! I would rather find myself in a dark alley with an Alien at one end and a Predator at the other than deal with the obstacle course that these men and women call their weekly routine.

So what is "production and design" anyway, you might well ask. Under this umbrella a multitude of tasks resides: graphic design, color coding, computer scanning, color separation and corrections, output to film, digital pre-press, print purchasing, and quality control for all these jobs. And more. Dark Horse is unusual among comics publishers in that most all of these functions are done under one roof in our facility in Milwaukie, Oregon. Most other publishers farm out many or all of these functions to vendors or freelancers, but Mike Richardson has chosen to build Dark Horse from the ground up as a complete comics-publishing entity. Over the ten-plus years of Dark Horse's existence he has fulfilled this goal by attracting top production and design talent from both the local area and around the world.

After the writers, artists, letterers, and (sometimes) colorists have completed their work on a project, our esteemed editors occasionally find that the deadline for sending the book to production has sort of, uh, evaporated. Yet we have told our distributor, retailers, and readers that we will publish this title on a certain day. It is at this juncture that the heroics occur. Like one of the X-Men facing the "danger room," pits of fire open underfoot and deadly projectiles hurtle from all angles. Undaunted (or at least not daunted much), our crew somehow manages, time and again, to deliver a first-class set of materials to our printer in time to ensure delivery to your local comics shop when promised. If we don't always make it, it is seldom the fault of these people. In fact, they have made plenty of creators appear to be more timely than they really are.

Not only that, they care. The logo you see on this book may be the culmination of a number of treatments, refined until it communicates the exact flavor of the work. The color might have been revised, eliminating glitches and making sure that it subtly contributes to the storytelling. If the films were out-of-register or the scans were not clear, you may be assured that they were done again — and no one had to ask for this to happen; an unsung hero decided it wasn't quite acceptable and fixed it. No ballplayer bats 1.000 %, and we don't always catch an error every time. But the production and design team has a remarkable track record, and we like to think it shows. Thanks, gang! You're not only heroes in my book, but in each and every one that carries the Dark Horse label.

—David Scroggy
Vice President of Publishing

MARCH CHECKLIST

ON SALE MARCH 5

- ❑ Aliens: Genocide (trade-paperback collection)
- ❑ Star Wars: Heir to the Empire (Limited Edition Hard Cover)
- ❑ Elric: Stormbringer #1
- ❑ The Warrior of Waverly Street #3

ON SALE MARCH 12

- ❑ Barry Windsor-Smith: Storyteller #6
- ❑ Batman/Aliens #1
- ❑ Dark Horse Presents #119
- ❑ Drakuun #2
- ❑ Ghost #23
- ❑ Insider #16
- ❑ Star Wars: Dark Forces — Soldier for the Empire (graphic story album)

ON SALE MARCH 19

- ❑ Chronowar #8
- ❑ Comic Book #3
- ❑ Dark Horse Classics: Aliens vs. Predator #2
- ❑ Dark Horse Classics: Star Wars — Dark Empire #1
- ❑ Dominion: Conflict I — No More Noise (trade-paperback collection)
- ❑ Lords of Misrule #3
- ❑ Predator: Kindred #4

ON SALE MARCH 26

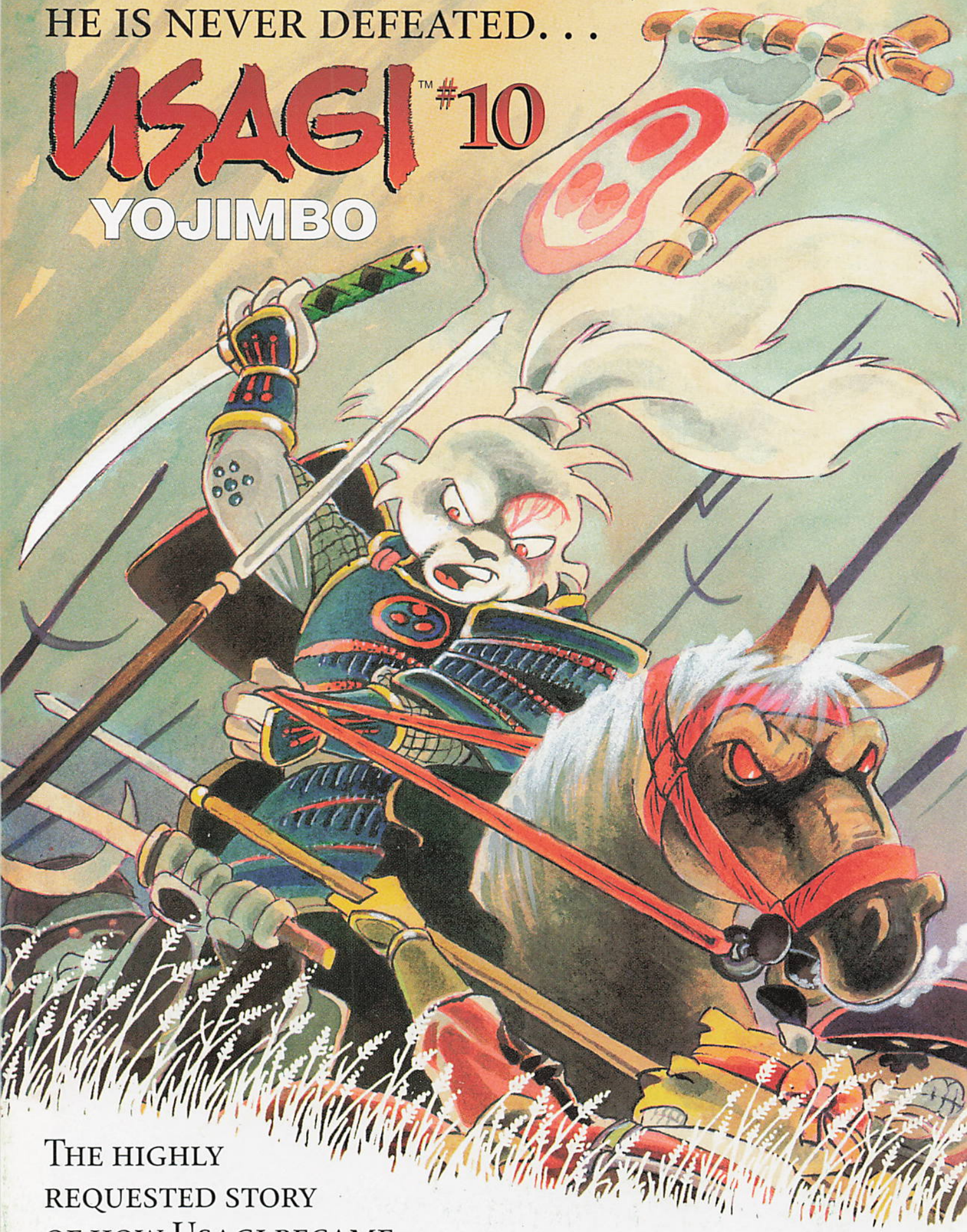
- ❑ Aliens: Pig (one-shot)
- ❑ Classic Star Wars: Han Solo at Stars' End #1
- ❑ Heretic #4
- ❑ The Ninth Gland (one-shot)
- ❑ Oh My Goddess!: The Trials of Morisato #3
- ❑ Sin City: Sex and Violence (one-shot)
- ❑ Star Wars: A New Hope special edition #3
- ❑ Usagi Yojimbo #11

Mike Richardson • publisher • Neil Hankerson • executive vice president • David Scroggy • vice president of publishing • Lou Bank • vice president of sales & marketing • Andy Karabatsos • vice president of finance • Mark Anderson • general counsel • Meloney C. Chadwick • director of editorial adm. • Randy Stradley • creative director • Cindy Marks • director of production & design • Mark Cox • art director • Sean Tierney • computer graphics director • Michael Martens • director of sales and marketing • Tod Borleske • director of licensing • Dale LaFountain • director of m.i.s. • Kim Haines • director of human resources

EDITORIAL • Lynn Adair, Scott Allie, Philip Amara, Debbie Byrd, Dave Chipps, Bob Cooper, Dave Estrada, Evelyn Harris, Peet Janes, David Land, Rachel Penn, Jamie S. Rich, Diana Schutz, Monty Sheldon, Ian Stude, Suzanne Taylor • PRODUCTION & DESIGN • Tracy L. Buckner, Chris Chalenor, Mike Denning, Jon Fell, Margaret Froese, Julie Gassaway, Brian Gogolin, Teena Gores, Harald Graham, Cary Grazzini, Brian Gregory, John E. Hanan III, Judi T. Hann, Stuart Hiner, Chris Horn, Jason Hvam, Daniel Jackson, Jim Johns, Michelle Madsen, Todd McAllister, Malcolm McClinton, Harold MacKinnon, Perry McNamee, David Nestelle, Brian Neubauer, Cara Niece, Erik Person, Cary Porter, Rich Powers, Thom Rabie, Jennie Richardson, Leticia Rodriguez, Chad Smith, Geneva Smith, Lisa Stamp, David Stewart, Shawn Sturos, Scott Tice, Diane Kintrea-Wassman, Rich Yatvin • MARKETING, SALES & LICENSING • Mark Bernardi, Elizabeth Forsythe, Rebecca Fournier, Amy Huey, Misty Osko, Tim Pitzer, Tim Tran, Kris Young, Rich Young • OPERATIONS • Kevin Freeman, David Hannon, Bill Portus • Accounting • Brenda Aadland, Kimberly Chandler, Raymond Leslie, Brian Martinez, Cynthia Payne, Jeff Sternoff, Betsy Wilkerson • ADMINISTRATION • Jennie Bricker, Chris Irvine, Sara Kaine, Ken Lizzi, Kimberley Nielsen, Michael Winston, Darlene Vogel

THOUGH BESTED IN BATTLE,
HE IS NEVER DEFEATED. . .

USAGI™ #10
YOJIMBO



THE HIGHLY
REQUESTED STORY
OF HOW USAGI BECAME
A RONIN, BY STAN SAKAI

Featuring inking by Sergio Aragonés

In stores February!

Special stand-alone issue

DARK HORSE COMICS®

Usagi Yojimbo™ and © 1997 Stan Sakai. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.